Harassmen MPs weigh on what needs to change p. 6





What's next for Canada in Iraq? p. 29

Add women, change politics by making parties pay, NDP savs p. 4



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CANADA'S POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018 \$5.00

News Electoral strategy

Conservatives at Manning conference seek ways to court female, millennial, urban voters

The Tories need to tap into these key groups to win in 2019, say observers. 'Getting women voters to support the Conservatives is probably the single largest obstacle for them winning the next election,' says pollster Nik Nanos.

BY EMILY HAWS

onservatives at last week's Man-✓ ning Networking Conference in Ottawa strategized how they can bridge the gap between their core 26 per cent voter base and the 51 per cent of Canadians open to voting for them, by appealing to women, millennials, and urban dwellers.

The annual gathering of conservatives took place Feb. 8-11 at Ottawa's downtown Shaw Centre. Reaching out to women, millennials, and urban dwellers-communities the Conservatives have traditionally failed to engage relative to their political rivalswere all topics of panel discussions at the conference.

Conference speakers were also about half women, and National Post columnist Andrew Coyne took notice, tweeting, "The contrast between this year's Manning Conference speakers lineup and last year's is ... striking. And encouraging."

Continued on page 34

News #MeToo & politics

NDP to debate new harassment policy at party convention

In the wake of allegations against a former and current NDP MP, anti-harassment approaches will be 'front and centre' of discussions, says the NDP national director.







NDP members are set to debate a new harassment policy at their convention in Ottawa this weekend, in the wake of a National Post report last week of allegations of sexual misconduct against former NDP MP Peter Stoffer, centre, which came just a week after the party launched an investigation into Saskatchewan NDP MP Erin Weir, right, for alleged harassment. New Democrat leader Jagmeet Singh, left, said in a statement on the Stoffer case that he believes the women who came forward. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade, file photographs

BY SAMANTHA WRIGHT ALLEN

The NDP's largest-ever L policy convention comes to Ottawa this weekend as delegates grapple with the

party's response to recent harassment allegations levelled

at an MP and former MP. At least one delegatedriven resolution to strengthen the NDP's

anti-harassment policy is expected to be debated, and party members will have a first look at the party's own

Continued on page 31



Full convention coverage inside and at hilltimes.com:

- Big changes to party fundraising p. 32
- >>> Where the federal party stands on B.C.-Alberta fight p. 30
- >>> Divisive Israel-Palestine resolution expected p. 33

News Liberal 2018 convention

Liberal VP and Trudeau insider Suzanne Cowan gunning for top party job

The daughter of former Liberal Senator James Cowan played key roles in Justin Trudeau's leadership campaign and in the party's 2015 general election win.

BY CHARELLE EVELYN

One of the architects of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's successful Liberal leadership and 2015 election campaigns, Suzanne Cowan, is hoping to help give the Grits another mandate in 2019 as Liberal Party president.

Currently serving as the party's English national vice-president, Ms.

Cowan is the first to throw her hat in the ring to replace the outgoing Anna Gainey in a contest that will be decided at the Liberals' policy convention April 19 to 21 in Halifax.

"We need a strong apparatus at the party level to make sure



organizer Suzanne Cowan is running to be the party's president. Photograph courtesy of Suzanne Cowan

we're ready for 2019," Ms. Cowan said in an interview. "And that's where I see the job as the president—as the chief volunteer in a volunteer organization."

The Nova Scotia-born daughter of former Liberal Senator James Cowan,

Continued on page 35



HEARD ON THE HILL

by Shruti Shekar

Press gallery's Marc Fortier to retire after 30 years



The press gallery's Marc Fortier will be retiring on June 1. Photograph courtesy of the Parliamentary Press Gallery

The press gallery's Marc Fortier announced last week that he would be

After 30 years, the Parliamentary Press Gallery's acting manager of multimedia events will spend his last day on the job on Friday, June 1.

"I would like to express my sincere recognition after all these years of collaboration and sharing. I will keep in mind many moments and unforgettable encounters

with all of you. I have enjoyed all aspects of working for the Canadian Parliamentary Press Gallery and I consider my time spent here extremely rewarding," Mr. Fortier said in an email to gallery members on Feb. 8.

He's also been the gallery's artist for many years and designed many logos, including the one that appears on the television screens at the National Press Theatre, where press conferences are held. Mr. Fortier has also created several beautiful posters for the annual press gallery dinner.

The gallery is run day to day by its chief, Collin Lafrance, who takes direction from a volunteer executive board of

Skills training event for journalists in Ottawa

Carleton University is hosting a free daylong conference in Ottawa Saturday, March 3 that Hill journalists may want to go to.

The event, called the Trauma-Informed Journalism Symposium, is meant to teach students and working journalists how to cover traumatic incidents and how to report on "people who have experienced

The Canadian Press' Joanna Smith will be a guest speaker at a Carleton University event that will teach journalists how to report on traumatic events. The Hill Times file photograph

trauma." It will also include a session on self-care for journalists.

The event is organized by Matthew Pearson, an Ottawa Citizen/Sun City Hall reporter on leave, working as the 2017 Michener-Deacon Fellow for Journalism Education at Carleton.

The CBC's Curt Petrovich and the Canadian Press' Joanna Smith will speak about dealing with reporting on traumatic events. Mr. Petrovich was treated for PTSD related to his reporting on Robert Dziekanski's death at Vancouver International Airport in 2007 after RCMP officers stunned the man multiple times with a Taser.

The symposium, sponsored by Carleton as well as a couple journalism groups and the Canadian Forum on Violence and Trauma, will be conducted at the Richcraft Hall atrium, which was formerly the River Building on campus, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lunch and refreshments will be served, and the event is free to attend. Registration is online through Eventbrite.

Journalists must be mindful of sexual harassment reporting: Singh staffer

In the wake of a torrent of #MeToo news stories on sexual

harassment related

tics in the past few

weeks, NDP leader

Jagmeet Singh's

press secretary

James Smith is

calling into ques-

'Dear media

to tell their stories.

That's really f'd

to Canadian poli-



NDP leader Jagmeet Singh's press secretary James Smith is calling out journalists who he says are not reporting on sexual harassment properly. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

tion how some reporters are trying to get stories. folks: Please be very careful in your approach to female staffers. I'm hearing about some women getting pestered

up and shows you don't get it. Other hand, I've also seen some truly respectful reporting (mostly female writers),"Mr. Smith tweeted on Feb. 9.

Recent stories include Ontario Progressive Conservative Party leader and former Conservative MP Patrick Brown, Nova Scotia Progressive Conservative Party leader Jamie Baillie, Ontario PC Party president Rick Dykstra, and Sport and Persons with Disabilities Minister Kent Hehr all stepping down from their roles after facing sexual misconduct allegations. Mr. Brown and Mr. Dykstra say they've done nothing wrong.

NDP MP Erin Weir was suspended from caucus duties during an investigation into allegations of harassment towards female staffers. He denies any wrongdoing.

Former NDP MP Peter Stoffer has been accused of unwanted kissing and touching by several women on the Hill. He's apologized for any of his behaviour that might have been interpreted as inappropriate, but has denied the claims at hand.

Mr. Stoffer was first elected in 1997 for the riding of Sackville-Eastern Shore, N.S., and served as an MP for a little over 18 vears. He lost his re-election bid in 2015.

Dan Aykroyd's mom, ex-Senate clerk Gary Levy die

Canadian actors Dan Aykroyd and Peter Aykroyd's mom Lorraine Aykroyd died on Feb. 8 at the age of 99.

Ms. Aykroyd was a longtime senior public servant and was the secretary to then-transport minister Lionel Chevrier, who was appointed in Mackenzie King's cabinet and served as a Liberal MP for 25

According to Ms. Aykroyd's obituary,

she later became one of the highestpaid women in government when she was hired as the secretary of the Canadian Maritime Commission.

She also worked at the United Nations as the secretary to the delegation to Geneva that explored the law of the sea, which later became a UN specialized agency dealing with maritime matters.

Ms. Aykroyd would have turned 100 on April 27.

Former editor

of the Canadian

Parliamentary Review

Gary Levy died on Feb

8. Photograph courtesy

of Carleton University

the mom of Canadian actors Dan Aykroyd and Peter Aykroyd. Photograph courtesy of Trousdale Funeral Home

Lorraine Aykroyd died

on Feb. 8. She was

Her husband, Peter Hugh Aykroyd, was a policy adviser to former prime minister Pierre Trudeau.

She died at home in Railton, Ont., near

In other sad news, the former editor of the Canadian Parliamentary Review. Garv

Levy, also died on Feb. 8, at the age of 71 after a short battle with cancer.



ment. He later became the editor of the Canadian Parliamentary Review, which is a publication for Parliamentarians that

informs them of the activities of the federal, provincial, and territorial branches.

Mr. Levy was also a Senate clerk.

Schedule changes for House committees

Almost all of the House committees have changed their schedule for the winter sitting. Human Resources, Skills and Social Development, and the Status of Persons with Disabilities; Health; Agriculture and Agri-Food; Transport, Infrastructure, and Communities; and Official Languages previ-

ously met on Tuesdays and Thursdays and

now meet on Mondays and Wednesdays. Access to Information, Privacy, and Ethics; International Trade; National Defence; Natural Resources; Canadian Heritage; and Justice and Human Rights previously met on Mondays and Wednesdays and now meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Make sure you check the House of Commons website for specific times and locations.

Senate creates web guide to cannabis legalization

The Senate has launched a webpage to guide Canadians through the process of Bill

Dick, Ruth, and Judy Bell Lecture



The Honourable Jean Charest

Tuesday, February 27, 2018 Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Event begins at 7 p.m. Richcraft Hall Conference Rooms (2nd floor)

Change, Trends and Canada

The Honourable Jean Charest will share his unique perspective on current trends, including international trade agreements, technological change, international politics and other issues essential for the understanding of national and international relations.

Register: carleton.ca/fpa/bell





carleton.ca/fpa/research-month

Plain packaging for tobacco.

It hasn't worked in Australia.

It isn't working in France.

What makes you think it will work here?

Bill S-5 proposing plain packaging for tobacco is now under House committee review.

According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's data, the long-term decline in smoking stalled after the government introduced plain packaging.

In France, the health minister publicly acknowledged the failure of the policy and admitted she has always been against it. Official French data demonstrates plain packaging has had no impact on tobacco sales.

Forum Research shows that most Canadians think plain packaging is unnecessary and a waste of government resources. Canadians are right to believe that it won't work.

Add women, change politics by making parties pay, NDP says

As #MeToo sweeps the Hill, the New Democrats are looking for legislation to make it financially beneficial for federal parties to have more women on their ballots.

BY CHARELLE EVELYN

As Ottawa becomes more embroiled in the anti-sexual harassment #MeToo movement, the New Democrats are renewing their call for the federal government to codify its support for having more women involved in politics as elected officials.

On Feb. 6, NDP House leader Ruth Ellen Brosseau (Berthier-Maskinongé, Que.) tabled a notice for an opposition motion highlighting that women have "never held more than 28 per cent of the seats in the House of Commons, despite making up more than half of Canada's population. This puts Canada in 64th place internationally "when it comes to gender parity in its national legislature," said the preamble to the motion, ultimately calling for the government to "implement legislative changes that would give each federal party financial incentive to ensure that women make up at least 45 per cent of their candidates in the 2019 federal election.'

"We have to change the culture on the Hill," Ms. Brosseau told *The Hill Times*. "This is still an old boys club. And if we want to do that, there has to be a plan."

In recent weeks, allegations of harassment and sexual harassment have prompted investigations and resignations all along the political spectrum.

Liberal cabinet minister Kent Hehr (Calgary Centre, Alta.) resigned from his post pending an investigation into allegations of sexual harassment of women staffers while both an Alberta MLA and an MP in Ottawa. A staffer in the Prime Minister's Office, Claude-Éric Gagné, resigned just as an investigation into allegations of inappropriate behaviour was wrapping up. He denies any wrongdoing and says he resigned on his own accord. In late summer, Liberal MP Darshan Kang (Calgary Skyview, Alta.) left caucus to sit as an Independent amid allegations of sexual harassment, which he says are false.

Former Conservative MPs Patrick Brown and Rick Dykstra have both left their roles as Ontario Progressive Conservative leader and party president, respectively, after allegations of sexual misconduct with young women while they were in their



Ruth Ellen Brosseau has tabled a motion calling for the government to legislate financial incentives for federal parties to have more women as candidates in elections. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

Ottawa offices, which they deny.

NDP MP Erin Weir (Regina-Lewvan, Sask.) has been suspended from his caucus duties, pending an investigation into claims he has harassed women, which he denies. Several women have accused former 18-year NDP MP Peter Stoffer, who lost reelection in 2015, of inappropriate behaviour, including unwanted kisses and touching. He denied the claims but said he was sorry for any action that might have been interpreted as inappropriate.

None of these claims has been proven in court.

"I think all parties are on the same page—we do need to elect more women, especially in the context of what's going on here on Parliament Hill when we look at sexual harassment and intimidation," said Ms. Brosseau, whose leader appointed her as House leader late last month. "This is something as House leader I'm going to keep bringing up in the House."

The NDP motion is building off of an unsuccessful private member's bill introduced in February 2016 by NDP MP Kennedy Stewart (Burnaby South, B.C.). Bill C-237 was defeated by a vote of 68-209 at second reading in October 2016. It proposed changes to the Canada Elections Act that would withhold some of the money federal parties get reimbursed following an election if "the difference between the percentage of male and female candidates on the list of candidates of a registered party for the election exceeds 10 per cent."

There's no timeline for when the NDP will bring the motion for debate in the House, but Ms. Brosseau said the party will keep raising the issue in the House and is "looking at different ways to bring this forward."

Though Mr. Stewart's bill was defeated, Ms. Brosseau said it's necessary to try again.

"I think time's up and the government really has to back up this feminist window dressing they're putting forward with some concrete action," she said.

There's "real interest in this from both sides of the House," said Mr. Stewart, adding he had heard the House Status of Women Committee may be considering a study of his former bill. "I think there's a mood in the House, in the current climate, to do something."

"I am always open to discussing—with colleagues in all parties—ideas about ways to get more women involved in politics, running for office, and elected to the House of Commons," Democratic Institutions Minister Karina Gould (Burlington, Ont.) said in a statement.



NDP MP Kennedy Stewart introduced a private member's bill in 2016 that proposed reducing reimbursement for federal parties if they didn't put forward close to the same number of female and male candidates. *The Hill Times file photograph*

Questions to the Conservative democratic institutions critic, Blake Richards (Banff–Airdrie, Alta.), were forwarded to the party's status of women critic Rachael Harder (Lethbridge, Alta.), who said in a brief statement that the "Conservative Party strongly agrees that women should be encouraged to run for office at every level of government."

Neither party has committed to specific targets or legislative changes, as NDP MPs want.

When asked in Question Period on Jan. 30 on his government's plan to increase women's representation in the House, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (Papineau, Que.) pointed to his gender-balanced cabinet, as well as the Liberal Party's requirement to reach out to female candidates at the riding-association level before a nomination contest is held.

"However, there are other ways, too. Some women choose not to run because there are barriers and because this can often be a negative or difficult work environment for women," Mr. Trudeau said. "That is why we have introduced several measures, and I hope the members opposite are open to looking at them in order to make this a more welcoming place for women."

The opposition last year balked at a Liberal suggestion to scrap Friday sittings in an effort to make the House more family friendly.

While having a gender-balanced cabinet is "something to be commended," it's also something that's "done at the whim of the prime minister," Mr. Stewart said. "So unless you entrench these things in either law or practice formally, they can erode."

Ms. Brosseau also noted many incumbent Liberal MPs won't face nomination challenges for 2019, so if, for example, the next general election yielded identical results to 2015, "[Mr. Trudeau's] going to have to have over 100 female candidates if he wants to have gender parity in the next election, when it comes to everybody running."

About 43 per cent of the NDP's 2015 candidates were women, she said.

Mr. Stewart said he hopes to see the NDP take leadership at a party level as a result of its policy convention in Ottawa this weekend.

His riding association has submitted a policy resolution that proposes making not only gender equity a requirement for candidates, but codifying representation among candidates from five groups (women, Indigenous Canadians, people with disabilities, members of the LGBTQ community, and visible minorities) to reflect their proportion of the general population.

The association submitted the same resolution for the NDP's previous convention in 2016, but the delegates "missed voting on it by 10 seconds due to a procedural issue," Mr. Stewart said.

Ms. Brosseau said she "would love to see this on the floor" of the NDP convention, but pointed again to the government as needing to be the real change-maker.

"They can't just say they're feminist—they actually have to propose legislation or take leadership on this because without that, it just becomes hollow," she said.

Financial incentives most compatible tool, says prof

Grace Lore, a political scientist at the University of Victoria, said it's "safe to say" no party is doing enough to bring more women into the fold.

There's no reason parties can't do this on their own "because we aren't talking about needing to find thousands of women coast to coast to coast," said Prof. Lore, who has also worked as a researcher with Equal Voice.

"This should be something we can do now under the current structure. That said, it isn't happening, despite the fact some of the parties do already have some proactive strategies," she said.

Both the Liberals and NDP direct riding associations to search for diverse candidates, particularly women, prior to nomination contests being held. Prior to the 2015 election, the Liberals also had a campaign, Invite Her to Run, that encouraged people to reach out to the party with names of women they wanted to see in politics. The party would reach out "and walk her through the basics of seeking a nomination."

Implementing a financial incentive is the most compatible with the country's electoral system, Prof. Lore said, and there's already a Canadian example in the works.

Last year, New Brunswick changed its electoral financing rules so that the per-vote subsidy claimed by registered political parties for votes received by female candidates is 1.5 times more than those received by male candidates.

But, Prof. Lore added, any incentive is something that would need to work in tandem with other barriers keeping women from running for office.

"Some of the things that are being tossed around now about improving the sexual harassment policy, making space for some sort of maternity or parental leave, dealing with the political culture—these types of things are also really critical so you have more women self-selecting into the process," she said.

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- 2018 capital plan increased by almost 20% to \$3.2B to further support network capacity and fluidity





#MeToo: trailblazing female ex-MPs weigh in on what needs to change on the Hill

Former Liberal MP Sheila Copps says Bill C-65 and the MP code of conduct is a necessary human resources package that will have a 'deep impact' on how sexual harassment will be dealt with in the future.

BY SHRUTI SHEKAR

Female former MPs say the current approach the government and federal parties are taking to deal with the Hill's harassment and the sexual misconduct problem is far better than during their tenure when issues were ignored or swept under the rug, but they say any new system to deal with complaints—which will continue because "biology has not changed"—must be fair and non-partisan.

Former Progressive Conservative MP Pat Carney said that the creation of Bill C-65, which would amend existing provisions in the Canada Labour Code to prevent and respond to harassment and sexual harassment in federal workplaces, and expand those rules to cover parliamentary workplaces, is good but "long overdue."

When Ms. Carney was first elected in 1979, she was one of three women in her caucus. She served as Treasury Board president, international trade minister, and energy, mines, and resources minister in former prime minister Brian Mulroney's cabinet. He later appointed her to the Senate, where she served for 18 years.

She said even as recently as 10 years ago, when she left politics, there was no process for women to speak up when faced with any misconduct issues.

Labour Minister Patty Hajdu (Thunder Bay-Superior North, Ont.) introduced C-65 on Nov. 7, which would place sanctions against someone who had behaved inappropriately in the workplace. The government also said it would introduce a suite of services for employers along with the bill, including developing policy and training tools and providing education.

The bill was fast-tracked to the House Human Resources Committee to be studied when the House returned from its winter recess on Jan. 29. The committee plans to also have a special in-camera meeting to allow for









Former MPs, from left, Liberals Mary Clancy and Sheila Copps, Progressive Conservative Pat Carney, and New Democrat Dawn Black, say the way the government is handling sexual harassment and harassment complaints is better than when they were in office, but a proper, fair process should be codified. *The Hill Times file photographs*

victims to speak up and share their experiences.

Ms. Hajdu testified on Feb. 12, stating that the bill is "setting up a fair playing field," and is laying the "foundation for cultural change."

"Biology has not changed, [and] there is always a potential for sexual harassment on the Hill," Ms. Carney said, adding that the proposed C-65 legislation has to be fair for both the person who is accusing and the person who has been accused.

"In the present lack of a process...[it makes] the men vulnerable to accusations and they have no protection, so it's a two-way street," she said. "I have no sympathy for them if they are guilty, but they have to have some assurance

that their cases will be heard in a fair manner and not just have their reputation, their marriage, their profession, everything ruined because of a [possible] vindictive accusation."

A wave of workplace misconduct stories has hit every political party on the Hill in the past few weeks.

Former Ontario Progressive Conservative Party leader Patrick Brown, also a former federal Conservative MP, stepped down after facing sexual misconduct allegations, which he denies.

Former president of the Ontario PCs Rick Dykstra also stepped down after facing allegations of sexual misconduct dating back to his days as a Conservative MP. Mr. Dykstra denies the allegations, though the news resulted in Conservative Party leader Andrew Scheer (Regina-Qu'Appelle, Sask.) calling for a review into how Mr. Dykstra remained a candidate in 2015.

Liberal cabinet minister Kent Hehr (Calgary Centre, Alta.) resigned from his post pending an investigation into allegations of sexual harassment of women staffers while both an Alberta MLA and an MP in Ottawa. A staffer in the Prime Minister's Office, Claude-Éric Gagné, resigned just as an investigation into allegations of inappropriate behaviour was wrapping up. He denies any wrongdoing and said he resigned on his own accord. In late summer, Liberal MP Darshan Kang (Calgary Skyview, Alta.) left caucus to sit as an Independent amid allegations of sexual harassment, which he said are false.

NDP MP Erin Weir (Regina-Lewvan, Sask.) was suspended from House duties while an investigation looks into allegations, which he denies, of harassment towards staffers. Former NDP MP Peter Stoffer, who was first elected in 1997 and served as a Nova Scotia MP for a little over 18 years, has



Labour Minister Patty Hajdu, right, and her deputy minister, Lori Sterling, left, appear on Feb.12 before the House Human Resources Committee studying Bill C-65 related to tackling harassment in federally regulated workplaces, including for political staffers on the Hill. *The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade*

been accused of sexual misconduct by several women. He denied the claims but said he was sorry for any action that might have been interpreted as inappropriate.

And Green Party leader Elizabeth May (Saanich-Gulf Islands, B.C.) called for an independent investigation after three ex-party employees claimed of being bullied in the workplace, which she also denies.

None of these claims has been proven in court.

C-65 'the biggest step to huge change': Sheila Copps

Former NDP MP Dawn Black said C-65 was "what women have

been fighting for a long time."
"We tried really hard, a group
of us across party lines...[but] the

of us across party lines...[but] the '93 election got in the way and it all fell by the wayside," she said. Ms. Black was first elected in 1988 and served for eight

non-consecutive years. She said she was one of the women who helped advocate to have a women's toilet near the House of Commons Chamber, and for brighter lights to be installed in the parking lots.

But these changes did not stop inappropriate comments from male MPs in the House. During one of her first committee meetings where she subbed in for a male colleague, the committee

chair said: "I have to let you know...that I'll certainly enjoy looking at you much more than I enjoyed looking at your colleague you're replacing."

She said those comments may not happen as much these days, but it doesn't mean those attitudes have changed.

Former Liberal MP Sheila Copps said the legislation "is positive and probably the biggest step to huge change." She said it creates a formal way of trying to resolve issues of workplace harassment through a third-party process that is not political, which did not exist when she was first elected in 1984, later becom-

ing the heritage minister in former prime minister Jean Chrétien's cabinet

MP sexual harassment policy to be reviewed again

Ms. Copps said discourse between MPs was more polite now than in her time as a politician when heckles aimed her way included being called "baby" and a "slut" in the House.

She said whenever staff came to her with complaints about harassment, she would go to the House Speaker where there was an internal process. But "because it was internalized, a lot of the times things can remain in the

shadows,"she said.

Ms. Copps said there also was no code of conduct guiding MP-to-MP behaviour, which was only introduced in the House under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (Papineau, Que.) after the 2015 election.

In 2014, Mr. Trudeau suspended then-Liberal MPs Massimo Pacetti and Scott Andrews from caucus pending the result of an investigation into allegations of "personal misconduct" for two separate incidents involving female NDP MPs. Both Liberal MPs denied the allegations.

The code—a policy put in place for MPs to report sexual harassment in a confidential manner—underwent a mandatory review last fall by the Procedure and House Affairs Committee, where only minor amendments were suggested.

A PROC subcommittee to review the code was struck on Feb. 1, and the seven-member group met for its first in-camera meetings on Feb. 8 and Feb. 13. Subcommittee members did not detail what more needed to be discussed with respect to the code, despite having reviewed it only last fall.

"I think there were some issues with the process that needs to be addressed and that's what we are going to look at," said Conservative MP John Brassard (Barrie-Innisfil, Ont.).

Liberal MP Chris Bittle (St. Catharines, Ont.) said he would be going into the meetings with an open mind and said he didn't think things had changed on the Hill.

"We are seeing the reports of conduct on the Hill, I don't think things have changed...but we are getting a better sense of what is happening so it's important to look back at it through that lens," he said.

The special committee will be meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays and "there is no timeline on any type of decision to be made or to be released to the public," said Liberal MP Ruby Sahota (Brampton North, Ont.).

Most male MPs were clueless about harassment, says ex-MP Mary Clancy

As part of changing the culture on the Hill, the House is spending about \$50,000 to organize in-person, classroom-style sessions to all 338 MPs across all parties. Attendance is mandatory for all, including cabinet ministers, the prime minister, and other party leaders.

It's a far different situation than what it was like for former Liberal MP Mary Clancy, who said she had arranged for training sessions, but they were sparsely attended by MPs.

Ms. Clancy, who was first elected in 1988 and served for eight years, said there were about three meetings where an HR representative from the House came and spoke to MPs.

She said most male MPs didn't even have a clue that there was sexual misconduct or harassment occurring on the Hill.

"I thought [former prime minister] Paul Martin was going to go into tears," she said after she spoke to him about the problem on the Hill.

sshekar@hilltimes.com @shruti shekar

HOW THE 2018 BUDGET CAN HELP ALL OF CANADA'S CHARITIES

Removing the Capital Gains Tax on Gifts of Private Company Shares and Real Estate The Honourable William Morneau, P.C., M.P.

To: The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.

Minister of Finance

Prime Minister of Canada

Mr. Jagmeet Singh

The Honourable Pierre Poilievre, P.C., M.P. Finance Critic

Mr. Peter Julian, M.P. Finance Critic New Democratic Party

The 2018 Budget presents a unique opportunity for your Government to stimulate charitable giving and ensure that our tax system is competitive with that in the United States. Your Government's focus is Mr. Andrew Scheer, M.P. on helping the middle class and the major beneficiaries of the increased charitable donations are the millions of middle class Canadians who are served by our hospitals, universities, social service agencies,

The proposal is that, if the owner of private company shares or real estate sold his or her assets to an arms-length party and donated all or a portion of the cash proceeds to a charity, the donor would be exempt The proposal is that, if the owner of private company shares of real estate sold his of her assets to an arms-rength party and donations every year for the foreseeable future. The fiscal cost to the federal government of foregoing the from capital gains tax on his or her gift. This would stimulate an estimated additional \$200 million in donations every year for the foreseeable future. Troil capital gains tax on this of the gift. This would summate an estimated additional \$200 million in donation Tax Credit for these increased donations would be the same as for cash donations. Removal of this capital gains tax on such gifts is estimated at only \$50 - \$65 million. The fiscal cost for the Charitable Donation Tax Credit for these increased donations would be the same as for cash donations.

barrier to charitable giving will provide Canadians with an innovative opportunity to give back to their communities. People who have the capacity to give can support those in need. It also removes an inequity in the current tax system between the donation of publicly listed shares and private corporate shares. Because the purchaser is arms-length from the seller, there is no concern about valuation abuse.

Implementing this measure would strengthen the federal government's relationship with the provinces, territories and municipalities. The mayors of all cities, towns and rural areas across Canada would be very grateful.

Unlike many other proposals, this proposal is not targeted at a special interest group. It is relevant to all Canadians. Your 2018 Budget is the ideal time to implement this measure, as there is a very high level of awareness and support of this measure among all stakeholders in the charitable sector across Canada.

On behalf of all Canadians, thank you for considering this proposal. It's a great way to leave a wonderful legacy to all Canadian charities.

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Editorial

House committee ought to have heard from ag groups on food guide

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau came into office and immediately sent his ministers on a number of listening tours to hear from Canadians about everything from electoral reform to defence policy to the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal.

He was making a show of the fact that his government was being open, transparent, and had an open mind toward evidence-based policy-making, unlike Stephen Harper's former Conservative government, which he portrayed as secretive and making policy based on ideology.

The Liberals showed that not only did they want to hear from regular Canadians, but they were also interested in taking meetings with lobbyists, which was a refreshing change of tone for those who had for a long time felt vilified as shadowy Ottawa insiders. The Liberals took a more positive tone in their relations with lobby firms

Mr. Trudeau himself, through his nowannual winter town-hall tour, has shown a willingness to listen to opposing views.

That's why it's so puzzling that the Liberals recently refused a Conservative motion to hear from food industry groups at a House committee looking into the government's proposed new national food guide. The five Liberals on the House Agriculture Committee outvoted the four Conservative and NDP members in a bid to adjourn debate on Conservative MP John Barlow's motion to invite "agriculture and agri-food stakeholders" to speak before them.

In a press release afterward, the Conservatives fumed:

"It is shameful that the Liberals are

refusing to hear from farmers, ranchers and agri-businesses that will be directly impacted by the new Canada Food Guide.

We continue to hear from experts and physicians who are concerned that the proposed changes to the Canada Food Guide are based on ideology rather than on good science.'

They've got a point. Health Canada officials told reporters from the outset of the food guide revamp that they wouldn't be asking for direct input from the food industry, but instead would be open to hearing from it through the department's online consultation

The thought was that the guide in the past was perhaps too influenced by industry desires and not enough by health concerns.

But groups representing the dairy and meat industries have since expressed their frustration that they've been shut out of the conversation almost entirely-hence the dustup in committee this

While the government's desire to keep the best interests of Canadians' health in mind in preparing the food guide is laudable, it should be open to at least hearing what industry groups have to say. The government may not take their advice or agree with what they have to say, but that's no reason to shut them out of the conversation

If Mr. Trudeau is really concerned with openness and evidence-based policymaking, his government ought to take into account all the evidence before making a decision.



Letters to the Editor

Scott Taylor wrong again on Latvia, says ambassador

Re: "Latvia mission a waste of money and troop deployment," (*The Hill Times*, Feb. 7, p. 9) This article is yet another in a stream from Scott Taylor, who questions the wisdom of doing anything militarily robust to temper Russian aggressiveness.

Taylor would like us to believe that it is wrong to assign blame to Russia for what it has done or is doing in Ukraine; it is just minding its own business. If it lashes out, that's because others came into its personal space.

Taylor makes a valiant effort to promote sympathy for current Russian attitudes and actions. Articles such as this are intended to eat away at the firmness of the stand we take toward mischiefmakers in the Kremlin

All NATO allies want dialogue with Russia and

are always ready for it. With Russia, a two-pronged approach is necessary: dialogue and deterrence.

Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States are each leading a multinational battlegroup as part of NA-TO's Enhanced Forward Presence. NATO had no plan to deploy such forces before Russia's illegal seizure of Ukrainian and Georgian territory. This NATO presence is not so much about defending against imminent danger as it is about removing the temptation to take land that's not yours.

Taylor complains that Canada, as framework nation for the battlegroup in Latvia, is "saddled with a polyglot collection of penny-packet national contingents." Yes, it would be easier perhaps with a homogenous grouping all from

similar linguistic and ethnic roots, but I think the multinationalism of the battlegroup in Latvia is a display of resolve and unity. The troops from Canada, Latvia, Albania, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain "come as one." No country is better equipped than Canada to embrace multilateralism and promote the interoperability of diverse actors. What could it be about multinational unity that is rubbing Taylor the wrong way?

All Canadians and Latvians would open their arms to a democratic, friendly

Ambassador Karlis Eihenbaums says Canadians with questions about whether Latvia has a culture and country worth defending ought to plan a visit there. The Hill Times photograph by Sam Garcia

Russia. But the reality is Russia is building up its offensive military might on the Black Sea and Baltic Sea, not to mention the Arctic, Pacific, and the Mediterranean. It is therefore incumbent to hold the line against Russian snubs of international law, and to be conscious of deliberate attempts to erode support for NATO's battlegroups, which

are, in effect, ensuring peace, and even promoting investment and growth. Security is important for economic stability.

Latvia's GDP growth is on par with that of Canada or exceeds it. Latvia is clean and green.

I wish that Canadians with a positive impression of Latvia, and especially those who have questions about whether we have a culture and country worth defending, plan a visit. Perceptions are related to preconceptions, how we categorize and pigeonhole, how we prioritize, and, to an extent, how we prefer things to be. But Scott Taylor may not be a lost cause. He also really ought to come see Latvia.

Karlis Eihenbaums **Ambassador of Latvia** Ottawa, Ont.

Article's headline treats MP Charlie Angus unfairly

 $R^{\rm e:\text{``Failed NDP leadership candidate}} \\ R^{\rm e:\text{``Failed NDP leadership candidate}}$ of party under new leader Singh," (*The Hill Times*, Jan. 24, online). The headline and the article's first sentence identified this veteran MP, Charlie Angus, as simply a "Failed NDP leadership candidate." I find this completely unacceptable.

Mr. Angus is a respected Member of Parliament, a courageous political activist, and a loyal and talented member of his party. To reduce his identity to that of a "failed candidate" is a gross injustice.

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The designation presents a warped picture of a man whose qualities of leadership and integrity make him stand head and shoulders above far too many more "successful" people in political life.

The article and especially the headline really constitute an offence to Mr. Angus and to the many Canadians who respect and admire him. I hope you will take steps to set this right, and avoid any similar errors in the future.

> **Helen Forsey** Ompah, Ont.

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Comment

Expect Liberal budget to focus on science, women's role in economy

Governments cannot short-change basic science and expect innovation to flourish.



Les Whittington

Need to Know

OTTAWA—Thomas Mulcair got it right a few years back when, commenting on the approach of Stephen Harper's government to the role of science in policy development, he said the Conservatives relied on "decision-based fact-making."

But, unfortunately for the NDP, it was Justin Trudeau's Liberals who managed to capitalize in the 2015 election on a commitment to restore science as an economic engine and renew the government's reliance on research and data.

Following up on that will be a major theme in the federal budget expected to be delivered by Finance Minister Bill Morneau within the next month or so. Another allied theme will focus on measures to increase the contribution of women in the economy.

The budget is expected to include an increase in funding for

basic scientific research, as recommended in a pivotal report directed by former University of Toronto president David Naylor.

It will be welcome news for this country's scientists.

According to the Naylor report, Canada witnessed a significant shift away from funding for independent research in the years from 2006 to 2013—both for basic and applied research.

"We estimated that scholars, scientists, and trainees wishing to pursue fully independen

pursue fully independent research work saw a decline of available real resources per researcher of about 35 per cent in that period," the study, published last April, said.

"Look, the previous government dug a big hole; it's going to take time to fix," Science Minister Kirsty Duncan, who commissioned the Naylor report, said in a recent speech.

"My priorities are investing in investigator-led research and making sure we have sustainable, predictable funding for our labs and tools," she added. "And I have real difficulty right now. I have world-renowned labs in Canada



'The previous government dug a big hole; it's going to take time to fix,' said Science Minister Kirsty Duncan at a November speech at the Canadian Science Policy Conference. The Liberal government is expected to boost fundamental science funding in its 2018 budget. *Photograph courtesy of the Government of Canada*

that don't operate all year round. I want to fix that."

But Duncan admitted it would take time to reverse the current situation. Naylor recommended a gradual increase in funding for research-related activities over four years to bring the total up to \$4.8-billion from \$3.5-billion."Governments cannot short-change basic science and expect innovation to flourish," says ex U of T president David Naylor.

While science will be highlighted in the budget as a key to long-term growth and prosperity, it's unclear just how much funding Morneau will earmark for

research and over what timeframe.

In a related move, the budget is expected to consolidate the Liberals' efforts to bring science into play as part of their campaign to improve diversity in the economy. Duncan has already changed selection procedures to make top governmentfunded research chairs available to a wider range of scientists.

This will "ensure greater diversity in research-chair positions," she said. "That means more women, In-

digenous peoples, visible minorities, and persons with disabilities working in the sciences will have a shot at holding one of these chairs.

"When our research community includes people from diverse backgrounds with unique experiences, knowledge, and perspectives," Duncan added, "we are all one step closer to the next breakthrough idea or discovery. Broad perspectives breed great science."

In a wider sense, the 2018 budget will be heavily focused on programs to improve the labour-force participation of women.

"We're looking towards a budget that's going to very clearly focus on how we can help all Canadians, but we're specifically thinking about: how do we make sure that we have strong outcomes for women in our economy?" Morneau recently told the Canadian Press.

Successful programs will not only help families but will also ratchet up economic performance, he said.

But, while there has been much talk over the years about improving gender equality on the economic front in Canada, this country still has a gender wage gap of 18 per cent, one of the most glaring among Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries.

Morneau has also said the budget will respond to the latest report by the Advisory Council on Economic Growth, which alarmed policy-makers by warning that 10 per cent of the workforce (equal to some two million people) could lose their jobs in the next decade because of disruptions arising from new technology and automation.

The council is urging Ottawa to invest another \$15-billion annually for adult skills training to prepare workers for this coming upheaval.

Les Whittington is an Ottawa journalist and a regular contributor to The Hill Times.

The Hill Times

On political activities, the Public Service Commission deserves to be challenged

It put me through the ringer when I ran as a federal candidate in 2011. The Public Service Employment Act ought to be updated to be fairer.



Andrew Caddell
With All Due Respect

OTTAWA—Political parties have already begun recruiting candidates and campaign work-

ers for the next federal election in 2019. Many candidates could be drawn from the federal public service, as there you find people who understand government and know how to get policies adopted. There are also public servants who want to volunteer in the democratic process.

There is one catch for both aspiring candidates and campaign workers who are public servants: they have to pass the Kafkaesque rules in the Public Service Employment Act's political activities section.

While the Public Service Commission's mandate is to ensure an impartial and effective public service, its obsession with political activities has the potential to undermine Canadian governance. On the commission's website, one can find a test of partisanship that always results in a warning to be careful about any involvement. I have spoken to dozens of public servants who were reluctant to become involved in our democratic system, fearing it might affect their standing within the public service.

Sadly, they may be right. I know; I was a victim of the commission's wrath in 2011, by doing nothing more than becoming a candidate for public office.

At the time, I was interviewed extensively by Public Service Commission "investigators" and given clearance to run by my managers and was expected to return to work immediately after the election if I lost. Unfortunately, someone in my department fabricated a hypothesis in a document I did not see and the president of the commission unilaterally decided I should be on leave without pay for 12 months after the election.

After appealing, it took 11 and a half weeks to negotiate my return to work, with the support of industry leaders and departmental officials.

When I retired in July, as reported in *The Hill Times* and *National Post*, I submitted an access-to-information request on my case. After waiting several months, I received a CD with 850 pages of documentation, which was substantially redacted.

The attempt to overwhelm me with the abundance of paperwork is one of the oldest tricks in the book. Like the first episode of Yes Minister where one character goes through hundreds of pages to find a memo with damaging information, I spent many hours combing through multiple copies of my own correspondence before finding evidence of the commission's clumsiness, including the recommendation of the officer assigned to my case that I be permitted to return to work after the election, which was ignored.

The outpouring of support after the newspaper stories appeared was gratifying: in 2011, I was frustrated and angry the commission had the capacity to derail my career, and I lost thousands of dollars and leave time while waiting for a decision. When I later gave serious thought to going to Federal Court to sue, I was advised it was probably not worth the expense or the impact on my career.

The Public Service Commission

insists every public servant must be perceived to be professional and impartial and thus not engage in political activities. This misses the point: the advice of most public servants is impartial, as decisions are made by senior officials. That was the position articulated by the Supreme Court in the Osborne decision in 1991 when it freed all but the most senior public servants from the blanket prohibition on political activities.

Applying the "perception" of impartiality as a criterion injects a subjective element to the process. In the 1950s, United States Senator Joe McCarthy "perceived" anyone who disagreed with him

to be a Communist. By applying the current criteria in the Public Service Employment Act, the Public Service Commission conflates contributing to the democratic process with attempting to overthrow the government.

Fortunately, in 2015 the commission was challenged by a former NDP candidate, Emilie Taman, who had been fired from her job as a federal prosecutor when she ran. Although she lost initially, she won on appeal.

That judgment should provide momentum for changes in the Public Service Employment Act. Here are a few suggestions: 1) change the criterion of a perception of partisanship to evidence of partisanship; 2) allow standing by the Federal Public Sector Labour Relations and Employment Board in cases dealing with political activities; 3) stop allowing employees to inform on their colleagues and scrap the online test of employee impartiality.

Changes must be made to the legislation; to do otherwise would undermine cherished Canadian ideals, and deter many qualified Canadians from engaging in political activities or seeking public office.

Andrew Caddell retired last year from Global Affairs Canada, where he was a senior policy adviser. He previously worked as a broadcast reporter and as an adviser to Liberal governments in Ottawa, St. John's, and elsewhere. He ran as the Liberal candidate for Montmagny-L'Islet-Kamouraska-Rivière du Loup, Que., in the 2011 general election.

Why a more assertive Japan matters to Canada

On defence, trade, and diplomacy, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is taking an activist stance.



Joseph Caron

Asia

Canada's engagement in Asia dates back to Confederation. Reaching Asia was one of the notable reasons we built the Canadian Pacific Railway. We didn't use these words at the time but our "geopolitical" partners—those who helped set the parameters of our relations—included Britain, the United States, and Commonwealth countries, notably India and Australia.

We should now add Japan and its ambitious prime minister to that list.
Since the Second World War, Japan's

Since the Second World War, Japan's geopolitical visibility would rarely qualify it as a partner. The post-war focus has been on rebuilding its economy; keeping its defence budget to one per cent of its GDP; relying on a United States-Japan treaty for its security, and a single-party political system that has had turn-style successions of prime ministers.

But these legacies may have lost some of their momentum. Shinzo Abe, prime minister since 2012, does not believe that the tectonic shifts in the distribution of power in today's Asia allows for a passive Japan. It's not just a matter of the spectacular rise of China, but also the lack of clarity of the U.S. response, as uncertain under Obama as it is now with Donald Trump; the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' China-U.S. balancing act; India's slow but steady rise as a regional political and economic power; and the urgency of maintaining the liberal trading systems and open seas that have underpinned it.

Abe has taken three game-changing steps to these ends. He has cultivated Trump to an extent unmatched by any other foreign leader. He was the first foreign leader at Trump Tower, nine days after Trump's unexpected victory. They met at Mar-a-Lago and Tokyo, and have, to date, conducted 17 phone conversations. Abe refers to their relationship as the best in U.S.-Japan history—a payback that keeps the wheels on the daily management of the security relationship from falling off.

Trump consults closely with Abe on North Korea, today's most existential threat to Japan. Abe has arguably the closest and most regular ties with Trump. Relations in foreign policy equal influence.

Abe also pressed the reset button on the Trans-Pacific Partnership following the U.S. withdrawal in the president's first week in office. Abe considered that even if the United States was no longer at the TPP table, in important respects, it never left the room. Accordingly, while he urged Trump to reconsider his decision to withdraw, he indicated his intention of pressing on with a TPP-11, to which the U.S. did not object. Abe, who had initially dismissed a TPP without the U.S., reversed course, and subsequently played the most prominent role in leading the

charge reviving the deal.

Abe has a grander strategy in mind. In 2007, during his first term as prime minister, one shortened by illness, he spoke to the Indian Parliament in Delhi of a "broader Asia," one that "will evolve into an immense network spanning the entirety of the Pacific Ocean, incorporating the United States of America and Australia." Abe has stuck to this theme ever since, incorporating it in the notion of Japan as a "proactive contributor to peace," a concept now formally embedded in Japan's defence policy.

Abe has defined Japan's objectives as asserting the rule of law and freedom of navigation, ensuring international standards on regional maritime infrastructure, and assisting south and southeast Asian countries in enhancing their maritime enforcement capabilities. He also asserted his view that "for the stability of this region, it is very important that the Japan's

Self-Defence Force, the Australian Navy, the American Navy, and the Indian Navy cooperate to contribute to stability."

How far will this proposal go? Japan already conducts exercises with the U.S. and Australia, and is advancing military relations with India. The four exercising together—the Quad, as it's referred to—is not likely in the short term.

As noted by China scholar Kerry Brown, "the world is now dependent on China's being a stable, responsible stakeholder."The jury is still out on that scenario. Chinese President Xi Jinping's 201

nario, Chinese President Xi Jinping's 2017 Davos speech notwithstanding. Despite the fact that China's island building in the South China Sea can potentially challenge the notions of freedom of the seas and navigation, we are not there yet.

Still, Abe's activist diplomacy is shaping the debate in Asia. Among the 76 countries he has visited and leaders he has courted since becoming prime minister, Trump, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi have had the greatest of his attention. Abe knows strategies emerge from new ideas and ongoing dialogues, sometimes years of them, for political and institutional thinking to reach some elements of consensus. Whatever the outcome in the long term, in the short term, where we all live, Abe has become a player.

There are implications for Canada. If Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is to move beyond the successful launch of the TPP (now called the CPTPP) and consolidate Canada's position in Asia, he will have to cultivate his relationships not only with Trump and Xi, but also with Abe. Indeed, he may hear the same message from Modi when he visits Delhi in a few days.

Joseph Caron is a former ambassador to China and Japan, and high commissioner to India.





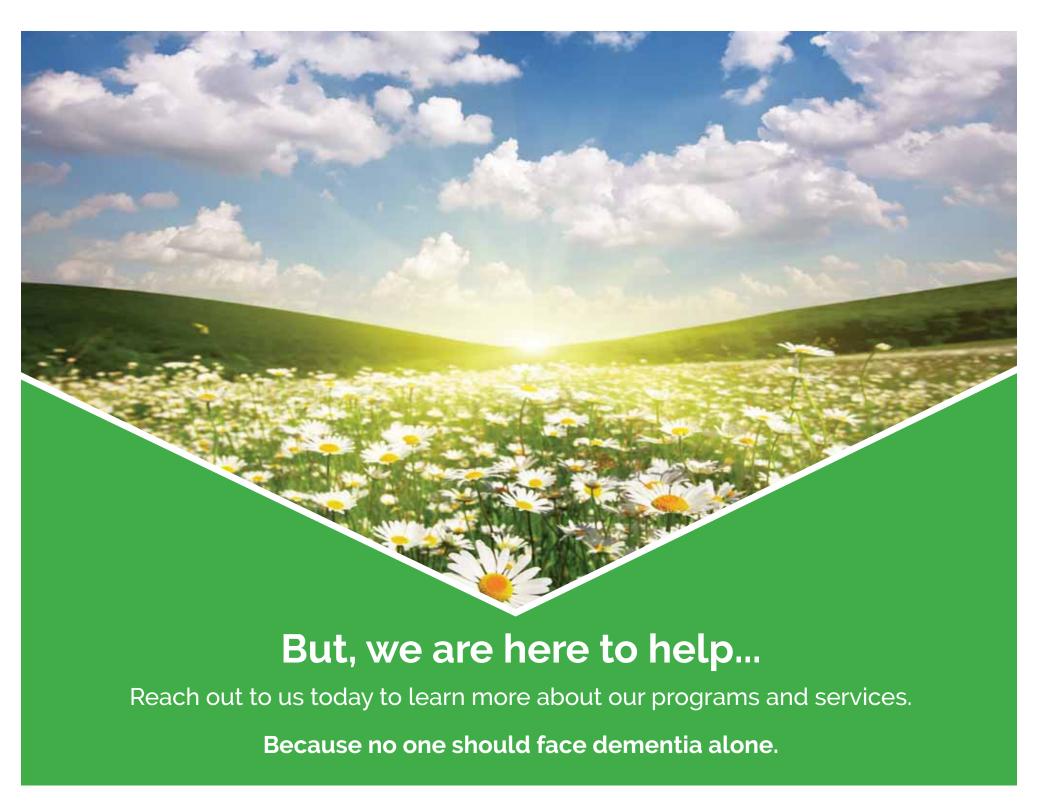




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Newfoundland politicians can't afford to duck its problems

The province is up to its ears in fast-growing debt. Residents say they're ready to listen to new approaches to boost economic sustainability.



Tim Powers Plain Speak

OTTAWA—Dale Carnegie, in his renowned book *How to* Win Friends and Influence People, would have probably advised not to go to your hometown to tell your brethren they are almost shagged. But I did that last week with a clear purpose in mind. It was not to get drowned in the St. John's harbour. Quite the contrary.

Anyone paying attention to debates and discussions coming out of Newfoundland and Labrador lately will know there is grave concern about the province's economic future. While the Canadian economy is doing well, my home province is having some real struggles. That is not meant to be political slight against Premier Dwight Ball or any political party leader. There are no messiahs there ready with a snap of the fingers to make things instantly right.

There are a few things you should know about the Newfoundland and Labrador economy. We have the highest per



Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Dwight Ball faces tough economic problems, including reining in the highest per capita spending in the country. The Hill Times photograph by Sam Garcia

capita spending in the country, 23 per cent higher than the next closest. The province's per capita spending on health exceeds that of any other province; we are far outpacing the rest of Canada. Newfoundland and Labrador has engaged in a big borrowing program, mainly due to investment requirements for the Muskrat Falls hydro project and the running of larger fiscal deficits by the provincial government. Finally, the Rock has the lowest bond rating of all provinces.

So much of that data has been part of the public conversation at home that people are worried. They are anxious. They are uncertain. We at Abacus Data wanted to get a vibe for the level of consternation. So in mid-January we sampled 600 Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. The results exposed some harsh uncertainties and a desire to take on the crisis at hand. Politicians should heed that advice.

What was striking about the results was the level of consensus across different regions, age groups, and partisan leanings. Case in point: 62 per cent of residents felt the provincial budget deficit and finances were a very large problem for the province. That view was shared most of all by those who voted NDP in 2015 (79 per cent), but was the majority view among Progressive Conservative (64 per cent) and Liberal (57 per cent) voters

Abacus found that a majority of residents of Newfoundland and Labrador think it is likely the province will go bankrupt in the next few years, with 22 per cent thinking it is very or extremely likely to happen. Bleak right? Well, yes, if the survey ended

there—but it didn't.

Seventy-one per cent of residents told us they felt that things are so bad that they "really have to consider new ways of doing things in the province." As often is the case and as that measure can be interpreted, the people are prepared to try new approaches. Local political practice, almost a lived mythology, has always been about protecting the status quo no matter what the cost or political party in power. That means running ferries to almost abandoned communities, paving roads to nowhere, and spending one bad dollar after another to run some outdated, ineffective service.

The people of my province told us and are telling all manner of political leaders that they are living through extremely tough times. But they are prepared to listen to new approaches. They want to hear them. Arguably, they are giving licence to have a bit of a more mature political conversation about the province's economic sustainability

When we delivered the results last week, there were some who wanted to shoot the messenger, who believed we were talking down my beloved home. Far from it. We were trying to spread the word that the public is telling us all to get on with dealing with the problems facing the Rock. Don't duck them.

Tim Powers is vice-chairman of Summa Strategies and managing director of Abacus Data. He is a former adviser to Conservative

The Hill Times

The past is never dead: South Africa's #Zexit and Mandela's legacy

Nearly three decades after his release from prison and 100 years after his birth, Nelson Mandela's legacy may finally be playing out in the country he transformed.



Lisa Van Dusen What Fresh Hell

 $F^{
m eb.\,11}$ marked 28 years since the moment Nelson Mandela walked out of Victor Verster prison near Cape Town a free man.

For the previous decade of Mandela's 27 years in prison, the image of his younger, bearded face had given Alberto Korda's Che Guevara headshot serious competition as the T-shirt of choice on university campuses worldwide, adding popular pressure to international sanctions against apartheid South Africa.

The sanctions effort, led by the Commonwealth countries in general and Canadian prime minister Brian Mulroney in particular, was arguably the most successful multilateral mobilization of moral authority since the Second World War, and Mandela's release was the first sign that it had worked.

That day, the whole world waited to get its first glimpse of the man he had become. Watching as Mandela walked through the crowd, his long-ago likeness suddenly eclipsed by the greyhaired statesman in a suit and tie filling our screens, I thought, God, ne's so tall. They didn't shrink him."

In South Africa, as the African National Congress celebrated the anniversary, it was also navigating a delicate change in leadership, known locally as #Zexit. President Jacob Zuma has been angling for a departure somewhere in the less onerous zone between golden parachute and perp walk. Zuma's near-decade rule had come to embody what the World Bank first defined in

2000 as "state capture," whereby corrupt actors, internal and foreign, influence and manipulate legislative, judicial, and electoral narratives to produce outcomes that serve their interests. (No, it's clearly not just a South Afri-



Lindiwe Sisulu, the daughter of the late anti-apartheid icon Walter Sisulu, who was imprisoned with Mandela on Robben Island, as his successor as deputy president.

This is good news beyond South Africa's borders. The

> South African President Jacob Zuma's neardecade rule is ending as he's facing a number of corruption charges. UN photograph by Loey Felipe

can problem; they've just been quicker to brand it.)

Zuma's recently elected replacement as ANC leader is Mandela's preferred successor, Cyril Ramaphosa, who was the ANC's chief negotiator during the transition to democracy and the man who's been negotiating Zuma's exit. Ramaphosa is seen as an incorruptible return to Mandela's political values. He has tapped

system that made Mandela an activist, a radical, a prisoner, and a peacemaker was—like any system that holds power based on the objectification, dehumanization, and repression of human beings-not just corrupt but insane. (The Daily Show host Trevor Noah's book Born a Crime, about growing up biracial under apartheid, provides an excellent window on that insanity.)

The granular, obsessive, neurotic, and paranoid practices required to maintain apartheid against all logic, common sense, and moral conscience were typical of any security state: surveillance and harassment were widely used against black South Africans and white anti-apartheid activists; intelligence agencies propagated false and defamatory stories with the help of journalists on their payroll; and detention and torture were used to silence and intimidate critics. Given where technology has taken politics in the past 20 years, apartheid South Africa now looks less like a Cold War relic than a New World Order pilot project. Ramaphosa's rejection of corruption bucks the current global trend.

Some of the first words Mandela said when he arrived on the steps of Cape Town City Hall the day of his release were "I greet you all in the name of peace, democracy, and freedom for all." He knew that if not for leaders acting under pressure from citizens in democracies, he might not be standing there. And he knew that, without real democracy in his own country own children and their children could spend their lives in prisons, concrete or invisible.

Nelson Mandela's 100th birthday will be celebrated in July. His real legacy may yet to be born.

Lisa Van Dusen is associate editor of Policy Magazine and was a Washington and New York-based editor at UPI, AP, and ABC. She writes a weekly column for The Hill Times.



A strong federal presence will make eye health, vision care, and rehabilitation services a population health priority.

CANADA'S EMERGING CRISIS IN EYE HEALTH

IN CANADA:

Vision loss is the most feared disability

5.5 million
Canadians
have visionthreatening eye
conditions, which
is projected to
increase by 29%
over the next

Vision loss has the highest direct health care costs of any disease category in Canada By 2032, vision loss is expected to cost more than \$30 billion annually

Just 1%
of the total
expenditures
on vision loss
is invested in
post-vision loss
rehabilitation
therapy

THE GOOD NEWS

Vision loss can be treated or prevented in 75 per cent of cases.



EYE HEALTH AND VISION CARE REQUIRES OUR COLLECTIVE, IMMEDIATE LEADERSHIP.

WHAT LEADERSHIP LOOKS LIKE:















Funding for collaborative vision care pilot projects

education on eye health as a core component of overall health

VISION HEALTH FOR CANADIANS: WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

Contact Laurèl Craib 613.235.7924 x 214











Opinion



Activists and organizers from a Front d'action populaire en réaménagement urbain and Ontario Coalition Against Poverty demonstrate in support of social housing in front of the Prime Minister's Office on Oct. 12. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

We can make homelessness history

The federal government should lead a nation-wide effort to end and prevent homelessness. My motion, M-147, could help make this happen.



NDP MP Sheri Benson

Poverty

Over the past few weeks, much of the country has been in the grip of a vicious cold snap. Simple tasks, like walking to a bus stop, become onerous. Weeks like these remind us there is no feeling quite like the safety and warmth found in the places we call home.

But these frigid temperatures are more than just an inconvenience for Canadians who live on the street. Winter comes to Canada every year, and yet we seem to be taken by surprise that there are vulnerable Canadians who have no shelter, and for whom the arrival of winter marks the beginning of a gruelling struggle for survival. Perhaps the best illustration of this

Perhaps the best illustration of this struggle can be seen in Toronto. Extreme cold weather, combined with an insufficient number of shelter beds, has led to a crisis, inciting calls on the federal government to allow the Moss Park Armoury to be used as a temporary shelter.

At least 94 homeless people died in Toronto last year. The rising death toll is a grim statistic that should propel us into action.

Those 94 people had family and friends. They loved and were loved. Yet they died, senselessly, ignored, and forgotten.

During my time as the CEO of the United Way of Saskatoon & Area, the city reaped the benefits of what was referred to as an "economic boom." Property values skyrocketed and suddenly what was once affordable became unobtainable. An unprecedented homelessness crisis erupted, and workers with full-time jobs were left

with no choice but to stay in shelters because they could not afford rent. I remember the police chief, in the midst of the crisis, saying, "We have to do something."

Well, we did do something.

We gathered around the table to listen. We heard from those who had experienced homelessness firsthand. I remember our community stepping up to invest in Housing First after hearing from Hashle and David—two people who were homeless in Saskatoon, and who were gracious enough to share their expertise and lived experience.

We heard from anti-poverty groups and sat down with unions, the business community, and with all levels of government. We looked to our friends in various communities across Alberta—our neighbours to the west who had already faced many challenges and had arrived at some successful solutions.

Everyone who wanted to make a difference was welcomed. We looked for a way forward that was based on understanding the causes of homelessness.

This is the kind of action I want from our federal government.

This is why I introduced M-147.

A special committee will learn the depth and scope of the problem, define and recommend the best role for federal leadership, help us plan for future investments based on measurable goals, and allow us to evaluate progress and measure success.

I want Parliamentarians to listen to perspectives from across Canada, to then develop a national plan. I want the federal government to lead a nation-wide effort to end and prevent homelessness.

Canada's emergency shelters are overflowing. They are filled with seniors, women, veterans, families with children, and youth. LGBTQ youth are especially at risk. Indigenous Canadians are 10 times more likely than non-Indigenous people to end up in emergency shelters. And we cannot overlook the people who fall into more than one of these groups. Shelters, as we have seen during these bitterly cold winter days, are woefully inadequate in the face of such need they cannot be a long-term solution.

In the wake of the federal government's re-engagement in affordable housing, M-147 can help achieve what we all want: an end to homelessness.

We can end homelessness in Canada. All it takes is political will.

We can do this and we must. Sheri Benson is the NDP MP for Saskatoon West, Sask. Her private member's motion, M-147, is set to be debated this week

The Hill Times

in the House.

THE HILL TIMES POLICY BRIEFING

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FEBRUARY 14, 2018

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> LIBERALS MAKING INVESTMENTS

CANADIANS SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES

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Policy Briefing Innovation

Innovation procurement programs looking to lure home-grown products

Improving communication surrounding the procurement process and available supports to get businesses through it is key, say University of Ottawa professors.

BY EMILY HAWS

ad Garcha, CEO of Bionic Power, understands why most small business owners are wary of doing business with the federal government, calling the process bureaucratic, but for him government procurement was always the end goal.

The Vancouver-based Bionic Power was recently awarded a contract for \$1.1-million for its Knee Based Energy Harvester through the Build in Canada Innovation program (BCIP). The company makes battery chargers powered by human movement, in this case, the movement of human knees. It's being tested by the Canadian Armed Forces.

"It's kind of a silly thing for a company" to develop an invention for the purpose of selling it to the government, he said, "because by the time the government buys, generations of entrepreneurs die trying to get there.'

"You need to have a business model so you can survive for 10 years before they write the first serious cheque," he said, adding that serious cheques come from the deployment of a technology, not just testing it. Investors don't to nut money into a project that could take a decade to get a return, he added, so most develop commercially and then go onto government sales. That wasn't an option for him, as the armed forces were the only market willing to put the money into the project to get it off the ground.

BCIP, established in 2010, is run by Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC). Inventions are tested by government departments, and it pays up to \$500,000

for a standard invention and up to \$1-million for military inventions. It helps companies test their invention, but allows them to keep

the intellectual property.
Since its inception, it has awarded more than 285 contracts valued at over \$126-million, said a press release. It noted 80 per cent of firms that benefited have successfully commercialized their products, and through its support, 50 made-in-Canada innovations have been exported to 44 countries. Over the past 14 months, the number of submissions to the program has doubled, which has the program pushing forward at a rate of over 600 innovation submissions per year, according to a statement from PSPC. As well, 80 per cent of participant companies, 97 per cent of which are small and medium enterprises, have successfully commercialized their BCIP innovations within a year of completing their BCIP contracts.

After having spent two decades in the venture capital world, Mr. Garcha said he was encouraged to apply for the government program after he met representatives at a trade show. Bionic Power was awarded a contract on its second go.

The program is a good idea because it supports domestic technology in its quest for deployment around the world, he said, but noted it would be nice to have government departments pick the inventions over the PSPC bureaucrats. The application process could be shortened, he added, because "what [bureaucracy] thinks takes 45 minutes, takes about a month.

Bionic Power has previously worked with the United States' Armed Forces and Simon Fraser University, and his device will be tested in February and March at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, fence Research and Development Canada facility.

Lack of awareness 'dominant factor' for lack of SME procurement, say

Businesses don't think of the government as a potential client, said Barbara Orser, a professor at the University of Ottawa's Telfer



the study suggested. Federal, mu-Prof. Orser, colleague Allan Riding, nicipal and provincial governments and their research team released a direct about 33 per cent of their study in collaboration with Public spending on goods and services. Services and Procurement Canada The government is trying to

change the perspective, Prof. Orser said, citing the PSPC-run Office of Small and Medium Enterprises. The office guides businesses through the procurement process, including maintaining a list of government sites offering procurement opportunities, and posting information on upcoming seminars.

That office has really developed over the last couple of years," she said. "They're much more aggressive in reaching out to small business.'

The professors said the department came to them looking to collaborate on ideas about engaging

Allan Riding, a professor at the University of Ottawa's Telfer School of Management, said the fact PSPC reached out to them to study why enterprises aren't doing business with the government shows they are committed to solving the issue. Photograph courtesy of the University of Ottawa

small businesses.

Prof. Orser noted she is supportive of the Build in Canada Innovation Program, but noted she hasn't studied it. The government needs to ensure businesses know it's an option and that it could improve education around the program's benefits and application process

The procurement application process is also time-consuming, she said, but the government is attempting the clarify that process and the language in the app tion. Once a business has successfully gotten a contract they are more likely to continue to do business with the government, she said, but getting to that point is difficult.

The professors' research found businesses supplying the government were found to be typically older and have more employees, be more knowledge and technologybased industries and were also more likely to innovate, grow, and export.

Along with BCIP, in Decem-

and Economic Development Minister Navdeep Bains and Public Services and Procurement Minister Carla Qualtrough are responsible for the Build in Canada Innovation Program and the Innovative Solutions Canada program, which both help Canadian entrepreneurs do business with the federal government. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew

Innovation, Science,

ber Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada introduced the \$100-million Innovative Solutions Canada program. The program has 20 government departments set aside money to support the creation of innovative solutions by Canadian small businesses. Essentially, the government posts a list of "open challenges"that Canadian businesses submit their solution proposals to.

If a company's idea is selected, it could receive up to \$150,000 to develop a proof of concept. If this proof of concept is approved, companies could get up to \$1-million to develop a prototype. The Government of Canada could then be the company's first buyer if the solution works.

Businesses more likely to sell to municipal governments than feds:

Corinne Pohlmann, senior vice-president, national affairs and partnerships at the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, said small businesses are more likely to work with municipal or provincial governments. The association represents 109,000 businesses nationally.

"[Procurement] is a pretty complicated process to go through, and particularly intimidating for a lot of small companies to try to sell to the federal government," she said. "They know the councillors in their communities.

"It's more difficult I think to understand what it is that you can sell to the federal government. And because it's often large, as well, some of the procurement opportunities are sometimes far too large for companies to be able to access."

She applauded the government for its pilot programming, allowing them to test out new ideas, but said there's still work to be done. About 20 per cent of their members had tried to sell to the federal government, according to the CFIB's latest research.

She indicated the process could be onerous for companies, with no guarantee of reward, but said once successful they are much more likely to continue to do business. The federal government's procurement process can be repetitive, she said, so certain parts of previous applications can be recycled.

The more experience you get with the paperwork, the more likely you are"to be successful, she said.

ehaws@hilltimes.comThe Hill Times



School of Management. In July,

looking at which businesses do

and do not use the government

procurement process, and why.

'There's opportunity to con-

tinue to alert, research out, com-

municate with small businesses

that they are in the business of

procuring goods and services,

she said. "Really, the dominant

The House Government Op-

erations and Estimates Commit-

tee has been studying the issue

it has heard the oral testimony

from 35 witnesses and received

since late last year. As of Feb. 13,

factor is lack of awareness.

Barbara Orser, a professor at the University of Ottawa's Telfer School of Management, concluded a study in July in partnership with Public Services and Procurement Canada that found small and medium sized enterprises do not see the federal government as a potential client. Photograph courtesy of the University of Ottawa

Prof. Orser and Prof. Riding appeared before the committee in December where they spoke about their study. Other witnesses have included Women Business Enterprises Canada Council, and the Information Technology Association of Canada.

After looking at the 2014 Survey of Financing and Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises conducted in partnership with a consortium of organizations led by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada according to a press release—the professors found businesses struggled with finding available contracts, that they were too expensive to venture into, and that the contract bidding process itself was too complex.

Between 2012 and 2014, less than one in 20 Canadian small- and medium-sized enterprises were doing business with the federal government, and nearly 82 per cent didn't see it as a potential client,

Policy Briefing Innovation

Government should prepare now for automation economy, even if layoffs aren't imminent, say experts

Job losses from automation is not a matter of if, but when, say advocates and experts.

BY JOLSON LIM

Despite mixed opinions from experts as to how soon automation will lead to significant layoffs, both proponents of new technologies in industry and those more apprehensive to their adoption say it's better for the federal government to ready Canada for potential job losses and a disrupted economy with policy sooner rather than later.

"We have this dystopian idea that everything is going to change and get worse for a lot of people and I would say that's the case if we're not proactive," said Kaylie Tiessen, a labour economist working for Unifor, which represents 315,000 members in sectors such as manufacturing, retail, and energy.

Ms. Tiessen told *The Hill Times* that she doesn't believe the workforce as a whole "should be worried about losing their jobs to artificial intelligence tomorrow," but cautioned that governments need to do more to create a stronger social safety net and provide skills training.

She said it's incumbent not only on governments, but also educational institutions, labour unions, and businesses to work together to find solutions and develop a system to deal with future tech-induced economic changes.

So far, the federal government has provided mixed signals on when automation will dramatically shake up the labour force. On one hand, the Liberals have invested hundreds of millions of dollars into skills development and training programs meant to prepare the workforce for an increasingly digitized economy, and cautioned in the last federal budget that automation creates "anxiety" for workers worried their jobs will disappear.

On the other, senior government officials believe they'll eventually have to deal with the impact of automation but likely not for decades, according to an industry source who spoke to the Canadian Press last March. Such a view would parallel the American government, with Secretary of Commerce Steve Mnuchin saying last year that he doesn't believe artificial intelligence would significantly impact jobs for at least 50 years.

Experts also haven't reached a consensus as to how soon automation will drastically impact labour markets, according to Sean Mullin, an economist at the Toronto-based Brookfield Institute. He told *The Hill Times* the projection models range from "complete decimation of the workforce" to less-daunting ones suggesting the economy will eventually correct itself.

"Fundamentally, it's a difficult and almost unknowable thing to accurately predict the future," said Mr. Mullin about automation's effect on the workforce. The Brookfield Institute recently published a report that found workers in low-skill jobs in sectors such as retail are most vulnerable to automation.

While he doesn't believe forecasts of an imminent collapse of the workforce, Mr. Mullin said automation's effect "will happen in uneven ways," with some sectors changed and technological advancements happening faster than others.

Mr. Mullin however noted that there have been dramatic advances in AI in the last half decade and governments are now talking about the effects of automation in ways unseen even three years ago.

"In the long run I think we'll be fine, but there is a duty for us to think of these distributional impacts in the short term to make sure we're not caught unaware," he said, adding that he wouldn't describe what policies the federal government has offered as of now as "concrete."

However, there's pronounced fears that automated machines will lead to massive job losses, with the latest jolt of anxiety coming from Suncor Energy's Jan. 31 announcement that it would shed 400 jobs in the Alberta oil sands for automated ore-hauling driverless trucks.

Self-serve checkouts are increasingly ubiquitous in grocery stores and fast food restaurants, while e-commerce giants such as Amazon and tech-centred "gig" companies such as Uber have already disrupted the retail and transportation sectors. After Ontario's new \$14 minimum wage was introduced on Jan. 1, retailers such as Dollarama have also said they're speeding up study of automation, considering it an option for offsetting the cost of paying employees more.

In December, the influential Advisory Council on Economic Growth chaired by economist Dominic Barton, released an alarming report warning that two million Canadian workers could lose their jobs in the next decade due to techbased market disruptions.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau (Toronto Centre, Ont.) said in December that the upcoming budget will respond to Mr. Barton's report, which calls for \$15-billion more in public and private spending on equipping adults with more eco-



Transport Minister Marc Garneau boards an autonomous shuttle during a September 2017 self-driving vehicle demonstration on Parliament Hill. *The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade*

nomically relevant skills. The 2018 budget will be tabled on Feb. 27.

In addition, the Senate Transport and Communications Committee released its report looking at automation in transportation on Jan. 29, cautioning that hundreds of thousands of jobs would be threatened in transportation-related industries by the rise of autonomous driverless vehicles. Currently, 1.1 million Canadians are employed in sectors such as trucking.

Liberal Senator Dennis Dawson (Quebec), deputy chair of the committee, told *The Hill Times* that automation in the sector is already happening, pointing to how more automated big rigs are being tested and produced by companies such as Tesla. He said disruptions will happen "sooner rather than later."

Although Sen. Dawson predicts job losses are inevitable, he said "governments have to be sure to encourage progress and not hinder it." He believes new technologies will produce jobs in the long run, citing the historical example of how jobs were initially lost when cars replaced the horse and buggy only to result in employment in the automotive sector.

"You can't resist change. We tried it with Uber. It was a waste of time. Embrace it, but be sure to minimize the downfall," said Sen. Dawson, adding that he hopes unions resistant to automation's application in industry can embrace change and work with policymakers.

The report also recommended that Employment and Social Development Canada continue to work with provincial and territorial governments in order to "strengthen retraining, skills upgrading and employment support" for Canadians at risk to job loss. Currently, the federal government transfers \$3-billion annually to lower-level governments for such files, and announced in last year's budget that \$2.7-billion over six years in transfers will go toward developing the labour force.

More spending on preparation for disrupted economy suggested

The Liberal government also allocated new spending towards skills development and training programs in last year's budget. Meant to foster a "culture of lifelong learning," the programs intend to equip young Canadians soon entering the workforce and older currently employed

workers, with skills needed in an increasingly digitized economy.

It includes a \$287-million pilot program over three years to test new approaches to making it easier for adult learners to qualify for student grants and loans, \$132-million over four years and \$37.9-million annually thereafter to fund EI benefits for unemployed Canadians to pursue self-funded training, and \$225-million over four years and \$75-million per year after to develop an organization to support "skills development and measurement in Canada."

The budget also emphasizes digital skills for young Canadians who will enter an increasingly high-tech economy, investing \$50-million to go to teaching children coding, and \$29-million for a digital literacy exchange program.

Such programs offering university credentials provide Canadians the "best disruption protection," Universities Canada president Paul Davidson told *The Hill Times*. Last week, his organization hosted Univation, a forum bringing together 80 thinkers to discuss how to ready students for a disrupted economy.

Mr. Davidson said "we're living

Mr. Davidson said "we're living in a period of accelerating change" so it's "incumbent on us all to think about what kind of public policy response can support people through these changes and help adjust our economy."

He said different levels of government have to start working together immediately, adding that "we don't have 20 years to decide" whether federal or provincial governments take the lead on readying the workforce. He suggested work-study programs, investment in basic research, and teaching learners "global skills" with ideas such as exchange programs are needed in the next budget.

Mr. Mullin said there will have to be a "mindset shift" for workers comfortable with the idea of going to school before permanently entering the workforce with one career in mind. Workers will have to accumulate creative and digital skills "hard for computers or technology to replicate."

"We need to prepare people not for particular jobs or careers but ensuring they accumulate bundles of skills that are going to make them resilient in an economy where a particular job may or may not exist 10 years from now," he said.

jlim@hilltimes.com The Hill Times



Liberal Senator Dennis Dawson is deputy chair of the Senate's Transport Committee that studied autonomous vehicles. He says job losses due to automation are inevitable. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

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Canada's Nuclear Technology Delivers Clean Energy and More



By MEL HYATT

President

Power Workers' Union

The federal government recently released the results of a June 2017 public survey on energy and resource development. Results suggest that public support for nuclear energy still occupies the basement at 45% compared with solar and hydro, with numbers more than double that of nuclear. Wind is next at 86%, followed by oil at 63%. The same survey showed about one third of the people surveyed support making greenhouse gas reductions a guiding principle for natural resource development. Other principles include keeping energy affordable at 25%, ensuring safe production and transportation at 20%, and creating more energy jobs at 10%.

The facts suggest Canada's nuclear technology meets these principles.

On a lifecycle basis, nuclear generated electricity emissions are slightly more than hydro and wind but less than solar. Intermittent wind and solar generation require back up about seventy percent of the time. In Ontario, this backup generation is typically provided by carbon emitting natural gas plants. By comparison, nuclear plants produce "baseload", low-carbon electricity twenty-four seven.

Over the last 30 years, Canada's reactor technology and uranium exports have helped avoid about one billion tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) globally. Ontario's nuclear fleet helps avoid about 45 million tonnes of CO₂

annually, the equivalent of taking ten million combustion engine vehicles off the road. With next year's \$20/tonne federal carbon tax, this represents a value of \$900,000,000 to Ontarians. The province's reactors also help Quebec maximize its low-carbon hydropower production and electricity exports. In the future, climate change impacts on electricity production will make this nuclear/hydropower relationship more important.

Ontario became a leader developing Canada's nuclear technology partly because the province doesn't have vast hydropower resources like Quebec and Manitoba.

CANDU nuclear reactors are the electricity workhorses in Ontario, meeting about 60% of the province's electricity needs. In New Brunswick, for similar reasons, nuclear provides a third of its electricity.

Analyses show that nuclear power is today's best low-cost power source and will continue to be in the future. The current average per kw/h cost of nuclear in Ontario is 6.6 cents compared to solar at 48.1 cents and wind at 13.3 cents. Nonetheless, advocates of wind, solar and emerging distributed energy technologies (DER e.g., battery storage and microgrids) call for increased investments citing environmental benefits, customer choice and declining costs.

The costs of nuclear are well known but the same cannot be said for solar, wind and DER.

Ontario Power Generation's nuclear fleet is regulated by the Ontario Energy Board—the only generator subject to such oversight in the province. The regulatory framework, including the process to be followed for analyzing DER costs and benefits, is yet to be determined. To date, most of Ontario's DER investments have been demonstration projects paid for largely by electricity consumers.

DER technologies make consumers producers of electricity or "prosumers". The resulting two-way flows of electricity generate massive amounts of data that must be managed to ensure reliability. This requires significant

expenditures on information technology.

And unlike nuclear, the decommissioning and waste management costs for DER have not been addressed. Solar panels and batteries contain toxic chemicals that must be managed. While DER may facilitate Integrated Regional Resource Planning to the benefit of local consumers and economies, it will create a range of electricity rates across Ontario. The bottom line – Ontarians will not know DER's impacts on electricity rates for some time.

Canada's nuclear technology has been safely and reliably operating for decades. The economy benefits from a five billion dollar a year, 50,000 plus job industry. Making nuclear the baseload foundation for Canada's low-carbon energy future means even more environmental and economic benefits, including: low-carbon electricity exports; electrification of the economy; powering zero emission vehicles; hydrogen production; and, cancer-fighting, productivity improving, space exploring innovations. Canada's nuclear technology is our "ace" in the hole.

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FROM THE PEOPLE WHO HELP KEEP THE LIGHTS ON.



Policy Briefing Innovation

Fintech caught in grey zone, stakeholders say, as feds study Bank Act

The Canadian financial technology sector lags behind its peers, says an Ernst & Young report, and observers want banking regulations to come into the digital age.

BY EMILY HAWS

As Finance Canada is in the midst of its review of the Bank Act, observers are saying the rules need to better accommodate the emerging financial technology sector—known as "fintech"—and bring banking regulations into the digital age so that Canada can catch up to its international peers.

"Things in fintech are moving in weeks and months, not five-year increments," said Neil Parmenter, CEO of the Canadian Bankers Association (CBA). "We're really looking and hoping for modernization in some of the rules governing banks, particularly as it pertains to fintech."

Fintech includes any company combining technology and financial services. This includes Apple Pay or the crowd-funding website GoFundMe, as well as using robots to monitor investments or blockchain, a decentralized public register of all transactions.

Key wants among stakeholders include changing regulations so banks can invest in and partner with fintech startups more easily, clarifying those rules to accommodate the sector's needs, and the smoothing out of jurisdictional issues between provinces and territories.

Regulations make the Canadian financial system one of the soundest in the world, but the current framework may impede innovation, said Mr. Parmenter. For example, banking regulations have outdated definitions of technology and rules surrounding the transmission and communication of information, which means banks are limited to only investing in financial services companies and are barred from investing in commercial ones.

This was meant to prevent banks from becoming holding companies and having a stake in airlines, for example, said Mr. Parmenter, but it leaves a grey zone for fintech companies as most are both financial services and commercial. For example, Square, an app making mobile credit card payments easier, has a food delivery component, putting it in this grey zone, and possibly requiring regulatory review. Mr. Parmenter said 80 of the top 100 global fintech companies fall into this zone.

"Those companies could end up going to unregulated entities [for money]," he said. "What fintechs often want to do is partner with banks because they get access

to a big brand, they get access to lots of capital, they get access to lots of customers to bring scale to their business, and these things can be challenging."

However, the government's review must balance regulation with innovation, and take into account risks such as cyber security. Stephen Redican, a Toronto-based financial services lawyer, said regulation of the fintech sector could also promote trust to consumers.

In August, Finance Canada released its second consultation paper on its review of the Bank Act, looking for feedback on potential policy measures crafted after the first round of consultations. The review allows "the government to calibrate its legislative and policy environment for financial institutions," Jocelyn Sweet, a spokesperson for Finance Canada, said in an emailed statement. The review must be completed by March 2019, and occurs every five years.

"The Government's financial sector policy objectives are to ensure the federal framework provides the right incentives to maintain a competitive and innovative sector, while balancing overarching considerations of financial stability and the protection of consumer and business interests," Ms. Sweet said.

There is no oversight body regulating the fintech sector but it must conform to the same regulations as other companies, such as licensing or compliance requirements. This can be problematic when fintech companies may not have the funds to fully comply, or do not fit neatly into the compliance framework.

Canadian consumers lag behind peers: report

The Competition Bureau released a December report to outlining why Canada is lagging behind its peers in fintech usage, outlining 11 broad recommendations for regulations to spur growth. About 18 per cent of digitally active consumers in Canada had used at least two fintech products in the prior six months, said the report, citing an Ernst & Young survey, compared to about 33 per cent of the other nations surveyed.

Key barriers to fintech sector growth cited in the survey included regulations, the mitigations of risk such as cyber-security, and trust in incumbent institutions. The study examined the three most popular parts of the sector—retail payments, lending and crowd-funding, and investment dealing and advice—because of its size, said Vicky Eatrides, the bureau's deputy commissioner, in the competition promotion branch.

"We really looked at this from a competition perspective ... so you know, we saw that obviously more open access to systems and data would make it easier for consumers to shop around," she said, referencing open banking. "You can picture these sort



Finance Minister Bill Morneau holds a closing press conference after meeting with provincial and territorial finance ministers in December. Finance Canada is currently looking at overhauling the financial regulatory framework to include the financial technology sector, known as 'Fintech.' The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

of apps that we don't have right now where you'd be able to compare financial products from different financial institutions."

Open banking—where consumers grant third-parties like fintechs access to bank data to develop innovative apps—also allows for further cyber-security concerns. Finance Canada said it is "examining the merits" of the idea, as "a number of jurisdictions are considering or actively moving forward" with it.

Mr. Redican said open banking has been successful in the United Kingdom, but that regulation of the third party is key to safety. Consumers can already share financial information to third parties if they want, but open banking forces financial institutions to do it automatically. This could make it easier to get loans, he said for example. If someone is high risk, they can check a box so that if the bank can't provide them with a loan, it will share the information with another third-party lender.

The loan would likely come at a higher cost, he said, but "ultimately the consumer is better served because they get the loan that they need."

The Competition Bureau and the CBA also recommended the regulations be technology neutral so as not to date itself. Technology neutrality means regulations won't have to be updated when the next type of digital authentication comes along, allowing "innovation to happen that isn't going to require us to come back and say 'can you change the rules again," said Mr. Parmenter.

Cyber security always a concern

Despite the access issues, the industry is doing a good job overall of balancing innovation

and consumer protection, said Blair Wiley, a Toronto-based securities lawyer, adding deregulation is not necessarily key to growth.

"It's not simply a question of loosening regulation to spur fintech innovation," he said. "I think you need to have more entrepreneurs, more engineering talent, [and] more investors."

He noted that cyber security affects every sector of the Canadian financial system, whether or not it is driven by new technology. The Canadian Securities Administrators (CSA) released the results of a survey in October on cyber security that found 51 per cent of the 649 firms examined experienced a cyber security incident in 2016. These included "phishing (43 per cent), malware incidents (18 per cent) and fraudulent email attempts to transfer funds or securities (15 per cent)," according to a press release.

Mr. Redican agreed, saying cyber security keeps bankers up at night, as "every [organization] has the risk of being penetrated."

ehaws@hilltimes.com The Hill Times



DEAR MINISTER MORNEAU.

WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO WORKING WITH YOU, BUT MUCH WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE.

The Coalition for Small Business Tax Fairness represents hundreds of thousands of independent businesses, professionals and taxpayers across all sectors of the economy and all regions of the country that employ millions of Canadians. Today we need to talk about recently announced changes to income splitting rules for families and upcoming changes to passive investment rules.

NEW INCOME SPLITTING RULES; MORE RED TAPE.

As of January 1, 2018, small business owners are subject to stricter rules that limit their ability to split business income with family members, creating significant confusion, audit risks and lack of recognition of the important role of spouses in the life of a business.

PASSIVE INVESTMENT RULES; LIMITING GROWTH.

While we are pleased the federal government now recognizes the importance of permitting some passive investment (and resulting income) within a private corporation we believe the investment income limit will prevent small businesses from saving for larger investments and innovations and therefore limit their growth potential and ability to scale up their operations.

LET'S GET THIS RIGHT.

Given the complexity of these proposals, more analysis and consultation is needed to fully understand the effect on the small business community. We therefore recommend the following action.

ON INCOME SPLITTING.

- Postpone any changes until at the very least January 1st, 2019
- Consider, at a minimum, a full exemption for spousal income and dividends from the new income splitting rules.

ON PASSIVE INVESTMENT.

- Do not proceed with the proposed passive investment rules.
- Undertake a comprehensive review of Canada's income tax system.

smallbiztaxfairness.ca



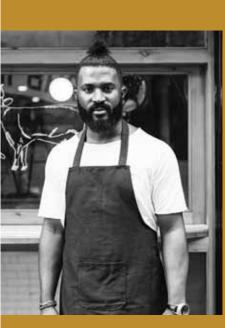












Coalition for small business tax fairness.



Policy Briefing Innovation

Canada jeopardizing U.S. relations, trade deals by favouring Chinese takeovers



Conservative MP Matt Jeneroux

Free trade

Encouraging free trade is a cornerstone of the Conservative Party's foreign affairs strategy. Gaining access to new markets in a mutually beneficial manner facilitates the dissemination of Canadian innovation, while creating jobs and a strong economy for Canadians. However, this enthusiasm to engage does not extend to state-owned enterprises, especially when it comes at the cost of Canadian security and economic prosperity. Specifically, the Liberals' distinct efforts to cozy up to China are jeopardizing the NAFTA renegotiation with our closest allies.

The most evident manifestation of this approach is in the approval of Canadian companies being taken over by Chinese state-owned enterprises, especially in the many cases where an additional national security review was not conducted. Norsat International is a satellite communications firm based out of Richmond, B.C., with a diverse clientele,

including: defence and security agencies of Canada, the United States, Ireland, Taiwan and Scandinavian states, in addition to media giants like CBS and Reuters.

In June 2017, the Trudeau Liberals approved the sale of Norsat to Hytera Communications Corp., while forgoing an in-depth national security review. According to many media reports, Hytera's majority owner likely received Chinese state financing in order to buy out the Canadian company. Given the direct impact of this sale of American national security, the Liberals' approval was met with immediate disdain from the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission. The Commission felt that Canada was too willing to sacrifice its relationship with some of its closest allies to curry favour with China. Norsat's American clients were urged to review their dealings with the Canadian satellite company, and evaluate whether they should continue given the new ownership structure. Similar warnings from governments of other jurisdictions will represent a loss for Canadian innovation as clients hesitate to engage.

This is not the first Liberal-approved sale of a Canadian enterprise to a Chinese state-owned entity that has posed a threat to Canadian innovation. Our previous Conservative government rejected the sale of Montreal-based ITF Technologies to a Chinese enterprise on the rationale that doing so would be sacrificing a key technological advantage Western militaries held over China. In March 2017, the Trudeau

Liberals reversed that decision and let the sale proceed, once again, without a further national security review. Such a deal relinquishes proprietary Canadian innovations to a dominant competitor.

The impact of these takeovers is cause for concern in light of the ongoing and somewhat contentious NAFTA renegotiation. Across party lines, we have presented a united front of commitment to the renegotiation. We know how many Canadians rely on jobs stemming from NAFTA, and it must stand. However, the Liberals continued favouring of China is jeopardizing those renegotiations. The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission have made clear their thoughts on increasing Chinese takeovers in Canada. In September 2017, the U.S. administration blocked the sale of Lattice Semiconductor from Portland, Oregon to an enterprise backed by China's state council on the grounds of national security. On this significant trade strategy, Canada and the United States are moving in very opposite directions.

While the protectionism of the Chinese regime runs counter to an ideal free trade arrangement, a bilateral free trade agreement with the United Kingdom (Andrew Scheer recently announced this policy position on behalf of the Conservative Party of Canada) would be mutually beneficial. Furthermore, the government should consider tax incentives to entice more public-private partnerships in research funding, as well as abandoning their \$50,000

threshold on passive income in a private company. After all, start-ups are generally small businesses themselves, and I have heard firsthand in my consultations with that community how the new tax rules are diminishing their prospects.

Mergers and acquisitions are routine proceedings in the business world. If such an arrangement will give the company access to investment capital and create more jobs, then we welcome that. But the takeover of Canadian companies by enterprises backed by a foreign state is a different story. We should not be sacrificing our innovative edge and national security

It remains to be seen whether the proposed sale of the construction company Aecon to Chinese state-owned firm CCCC International Holdings Ltd. (CCCI) will be approved. We welcome further scrutiny of the acquisition under a national security review; however the Liberals' track record in this respect indicates a favourable outcome for CCCI. As the Official Opposition, we will continue to highlight the impact that these takeovers backed by Chinese state-owned enterprises will have on the willingness of investors to do business in Canada, and on maintaining and expanding the areas in which Canada holds an innovative edge.

Conservative MP Matt Jeneroux, who represents Edmonton Riverbend, Alta., is his party's science critic.



Innovation Policy Briefing

Health innovation requires taking risks

Embrace technology to solve problems, but when choosing this path, use the best one for the job and avoided being hemmed in by the limitations of a particular program or vendor.



Clare Liddy & Erin Keely

Health

It all started when the two of us sat down over a cup of coffee. As a family physician and endocrinologist, we stand on opposite sides of a large chasm called patient wait times, and we both started seeing more and more of our patients getting swallowed up by this abyss.

In her role as a family doctor, Clare noticed how long some of her patients had to wait for an appointment with a specialist. In Erin's case, patients were waiting months for their appointments with her as an endocrinologist, often for problems their family doctors could have addressed with just a little guidance.

Surely, we thought, there was a better way, a quicker path that could save patients the meandering months-long waits they were too often facing?

From this conversation, we came up with an innovative solution: what if, instead of a family doctor making a referral every time they faced a question about a patient's care, they could instead reach out to a knowl-

edgeable specialist directly? Perhaps, in some cases, the specialist could guide the family doctor, saving the patient a long wait for an in-person appointment. And this could save the beleaguered public health system important resources in the process.

With public grant funding and the support of regional partner—including the Champlain Local Health Integration Network and the Winchester District Memorial Hospital—we created the Champlain BASE eConsult service: a secure online platform that allows primary care providers to ask specialists questions about a patient's care. Specialists respond within a week—two days on average—with advice on the patient's care, recommendations for referral or requests for more information.

Eight years since its founding, the eConsult service has completed more than 30,000 cases, enrolled more than 1,300 primary care providers and allowed thousands of patients to receive high quality care without needing a face-to-face specialist visit.

Other innovators in several provinces have partnered with us to bring the BASE eConsult model of care to their jurisdictions, and the Government of Ontario has recently committed to expanding the service across the province.

The eConsult service made the leap from pilot into practice—no easy feat in the often intractable and rigid Canadian health system. Over the years, we've learned a number of important lessons about creating and implementing healthcare innovations, which too often fail to sustain themselves beyond an initial pilot phase.

1. Straddle the divide between research

Successful innovations are built on a foundation of sound evidence and that evidence comes from solid research. But research alone can't launch a service, and many promising innovations have remained cloistered in academic journals—valuable platforms, but ones that rarely resonate outside of their immediate circles. In order to get something implemented, you need to reach the people who do the actual implementing: clinicians, policymakers, and especially patients, whose voices must be heard.

2. Technology should be the vehicle, not the driver

We created eConsult first and foremost to solve a problem: poor access to specialist care. Our solution to this problem embraced technology, but when choosing this path, we remained set on our destination, which was always improving access for patients. By remaining agnostic to the particular technology we used, we ensured that the platform we ultimately chose was the best one for the job and avoided being hemmed in by the limitations of a particular program or vendor.

3. Stay flexible, but stay focused

Implementation is an ongoing process and adapting to new facts or changing needs is vital. For instance, in the early days of eConsult, we considered building the service around an email client. However, Ontario's privacy legislation doesn't allow transmission of patient data through email because it's too insecure, so we switched to a platform with more robust security measures.

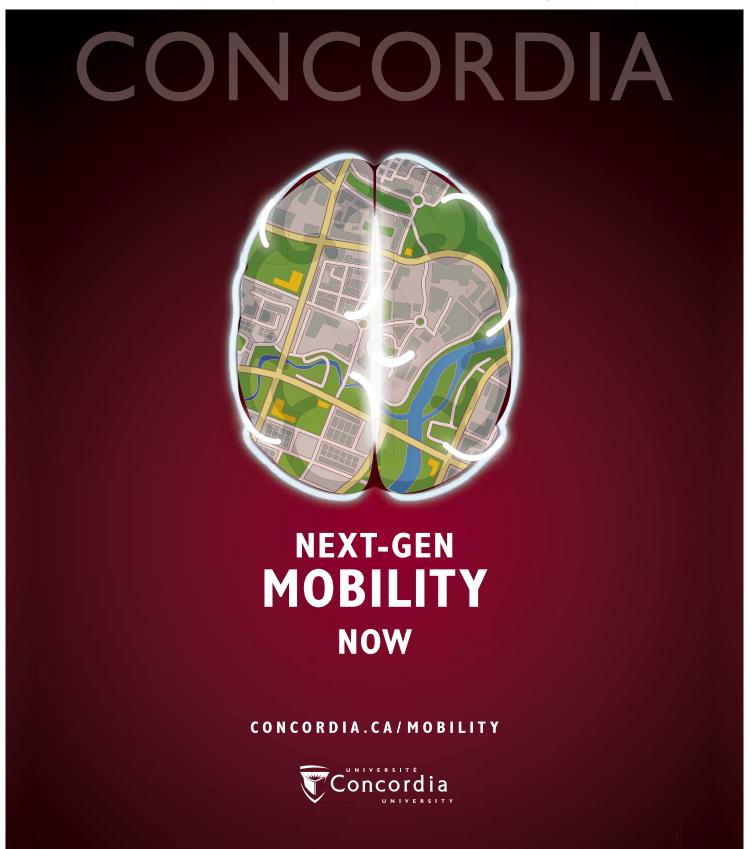
While such adjustments are inevitable and must be taken in stride, the overall goal of the innovation should remain at the forefront of its implementation. Many programs suffer from a gradual broadening of their scope, which can dilute their impact on the objective they originally meant to achieve.

4. Take risks

In research, failure is often preferable to inaction, because failure brings with it lessons on how to improve, while inaction teaches us nothing. Mistakes are inevitable, and the best way to learn from them is to seek continuous feedback from the providers and patients who use or benefit from the service.

We've seen firsthand the positive impact eConsult can have on patient care, and hope that one day every Canadian can avoid the pitfalls of excessive wait times—which range from inconvenience to serious deterioration of health—and benefit from improved access to specialist care.

Dr. Clare Liddy is a clinical investigator at the C.T. Lamont Primary Health Care Research Centre of the Bruyère Research Institute, a Tier 2 Chair and associate professor at the University of Ottawa's Department of Family Medicine, and a practicing family physician and an expert advisor with EvidenceNetwork.ca. Dr. Erin Keely is an endocrinologist with The Ottawa Hospital, a professor at the University of Ottawa's Department of Medicine, and a clinician researcher with the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute.



Policy Briefing Innovation

Feds must step up support for innovation in Canada's auto industry

In 2016, the biggest trade driver between Canada and the U.S. was the auto industry. We cannot, nor should we, stand by and let it fail, or drift without goals.



NDP MP Brian Masse

Auto manufacturing

Since the inception of the automotive industry in Canada, automakers and automotive part suppliers have become global leaders in innovation. Especially following the financial crisis of 2008 and with ongoing NAFTA negotiations, it is clear that our government needs to step up its support of the automotive industry in Canada. Other countries have strategies to grow their sector and innovate; we still do not.

The former government provided funding by way of the Automotive Innovation Fund, which involved repayable loans to companies that could afford to benefit from such loans. It was a step in the right direction, but ultimately, did not focus on the immense talent that automotive industry workers could provide. So while the automotive industry in Canada slowly worked itself back, innovation lagged, and opportunities were missed, leaving Canada behind. One can easily argue the workers and quality performance led to the recovery.

The current government's Strategic

Innovation Fund combines several former investment initiatives into one large group, making each industry compete for the same funds. This new fund brings together the former Strategic Aerospace and Defence Initiative, Technology Demonstration Program, Automotive Innovation Fund, and Automotive Supplier Innovation Program into one program that the government claims will streamline the funding process. To date, we do not have enough information to see if this will, in fact, make a difference for applicants, nor have we set any target for these investments.

A report by Canadian auto czar Ray Tanguay, entitled Drive to Win, was submitted to the Canadian government last month. This vital report highlighted the need for this government to invest further in the automotive industry in Canada via the current Strategic Innovation Fund. Mr. Tanguay studied the important work that this industry provides and suggested tangible ways for the government to help make Canadian automotive research and production number one in the world. He was clear that we have to lead with innovation.

Now, it's up to the Government of Canada to heed this call.

We must remember that the automotive industry in Canada is the second-largest manufacturing sector; it provides \$18-billion or more to Canada's GDP. Further, there are 126,900 direct jobs and 401,800 indirect jobs, and it is the largest export sector accounting for 17 per cent of total merchandise exports (95 per cent of which are destined for the United States).

In 2016 alone, Statistics Canada revealed that the biggest trade driver between Canada and the United States was the automotive industry. We cannot, nor should we, stand by and let this industry fail, or drift without goals or ambitions.

With constantly evolving technologies in the automotive field, in both the manufacturing processes and innovation of products, this presents a new opportunity for automotive manufacturers and our government to work closely together and

reprioritize this industry. It is clear that we have the platform for doing this right; we have the people, skills, location, and technologies to innovate and adapt year after year. Now it's just ensuring that the automotive industry is not lost in this bigger funding plan.

For years Canada's automotive manufacturing industry has been virtually ignored by our government. The message by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the epicentre on manufacturing was also

discouraging, as manufacturing is not a disappearing or passing industry. Robust artificial intelligence is just one example of new and exciting opportunities for automotive and cross-over industries.

It's time that this government ensures that we are not left behind other automotive nations investing in innovation. The government must make good on its Innovation and Skills Plan commitments, through the Strategic Innovation Fund, and ensure that investments in the automotive sector meet the calls in Drive to Win. Mr. Tanguay was clear that this industry can be a global leader capable of taking Canada to a whole new level if the right investments by this government are made. I agree.

The automotive evolution is reaching another pinnacle. Despite a history of accomplishments, we cannot pretend to ignore the reality that a new age is upon Canada, and a new results-based approach is desperately needed.

Brian Masse is the MP for Windsor West and NDP innovation, science, and economic development critic.











Federal and Ontario auto adviser Ray Tanguay, centre, is pictured with then-Ontario minister of economic development, employment, and infrastructure Brad Duguid, left, and his deputy minister, Giles Gherson, at the Canadian International Autoshow in 2015. *Photograph courtesy of Ontario's Ministry of Economic Development and Growth*

Innovation Policy Briefing

Liberals making investments to help Canadians seize opportunities created by technology: Bains

'We recognize that technology is changing fast, and with that comes opportunity.'

BY MARCO VIGLIOTTI

The expansive portfolio handed to Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Minister Navdeep Bains has already earned him the moniker the "minister of everything."

After all, the Mississauga, Ont., MP is

After all, the Mississauga, Ont., MP is tasked with not only shepherding the government's all-important economic development agenda, but also helping domestic businesses become more innovative, an elusive task that seemingly boils down to helping Canadian firms remain on the cutting edge of a rapidly evolving technological landscape.

It's a mandate that seems simple only in its breadth and scope: help support economic development now and into the future. Or, as Mr. Bains (Mississauga-Malton, Ont.) succinctly describes it, creating "good, well-paying middle-class jobs now while preparing workers for the jobs of tomorrow."

For the innovation policy briefing, *The Hill Times* quizzed Mr. Bains on how his



Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Minister Navdeep Bains says the Liberal government is focusing on creating 'good, well-paying middle-class jobs now while preparing workers for the jobs of tomorrow.' *The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade*

department was using government buying power to support small- and medium-sized firms in Canada, how it was handling the emerging Fintech sector, and preparing Canadians for increased automation and

2018 rank	2017 rank	Voor over voor		
		Year over year	Economy	Total score
1	1	0	S.Korea	89.28
2	2	0	Sweden	84.70
3	6	+3	Singapore	83.05
4	3	-1	Germany	82.53
5	4	-1	Switzerland	82.34
6	7	+1	Japan	81.91
7	5	-2	Finland	81.46
8	8	0	Denmark	81.28
9	11	+2	France	80.75
10	10	0	Israel	80.64
11	9	-2	U.S.	80.42
12	12	0	Austria	79.12
13	16	+3	Ireland	77.87
14	3	-1	Belgium	77.12
15	14	-1	Norway	76.76
16	15	-1	Netherlands	75.09
17	17	0	U.K.	74.54
18	18	0	Australia	74.35
19	21	+2	China	73.36
20	24	+4	Italy	68.88
21	22	+1	Poland	68.74
22	20	-2	Canada	67.98
23	19	-4	New Zealand	67.40
24	25	+1	Iceland	67.11
25	26	+1	Russia	66.61

other innovation-fuelled disruptions in the job market, as well as other pressing queries related to his portfolio.

Source: Bloomberg.com

You can see where the minister of everything tag comes from.

This email Q&A has been edited for style and length.

What is the federal government doing to leverage its considerable buying power to help small- and medium-sized businesses in Canada, especially those in the innovation space? How does it offer support to domestic businesses without running afoul of WTO rules and various trade agreements prohibiting granting preference to local firms?

"Launched in December 2017, Innovative Solutions Canada is a new innovation procurement program designed to support Canadian small businesses. Twenty participating federal departments and agencies will issue challenges through Innovative Solutions Canada. The challenges are designed to seek novel solutions and not commercially available products or services. The challenges issued by federal departments and agencies will be designed around desired outcomes rather than

known products or process specifications.

"Each participating department will allocate a minimum of one per cent of their 2015-16 procurement and intramural research and development expenditures to support early-stage, pre-commercial research and development and late-stage prototypes from Canadian small businesses in response to challenges. The funding supports partnerships between government departments and Canadian innovators in the development of early stage, pre-commercial innovation with the ultimate goal of promoting the growth of Canada's small businesses.

"The benefits of Innovative Solutions Canada for small businesses is that they do not give up equity in their company, they do not give up rights to the intellectual property, and they do not return the funding—this is not a loan or a repayable contribution. What is expected is truly novel research that will lead to a commercial product that benefits Canada. Getting into the program sends a powerful signal to potential investors and customers. It says that the company's innovation has the potential to address a pressing need expressed by the government of Canada."

What is Ottawa doing to spur more innovation in the financial services industry? In the same vein, what regulatory approach is Ottawa considering for the emergent Fintech sector? What department/agency is taking the lead?

"Canada has a rapidly developing Fintech sector, with a strong base of firms, talent and funding, and has a global reputation for its strength in financial sector stability and prudential oversight. Like other jurisdictions, Canada is considering the policy implications of rapidly evolving technological changes in the provision of financial services. The government's financial sector policy objectives are to ensure that the federal framework provides the right incentives to maintain a competitive and innovative sector, while balancing overarching considerations of financial stability. Under the Canadian framework, Canada's financial institution statutes are reviewed every five years. The Department of Finance Canada is currently in the midst of such a review, which will allow the government to calibrate its legislative and policy environment for financial institutions to accommodate a changing market environment with respect to Fintech.

"As part of this review, there have been two periods of consultation with stakeholders.

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ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

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That's good chemistry!



Policy Briefing Innovation

Continued from page 26

By the numbers

\$2.379-billion

Total federal financial support for business innovation for fiscal year 2016-2017

Total patent applications filed in Canada for fiscal year 2016-2017. That's down from 38,968 in 2015-2016.

Sources: Treasury Board of Canada

Finance has heard from stakeholders that:

"Innovation is about convergence of financial, technological and other services. Traditional regulatory approaches based on these definitions may need to evolve to keep pace with the new business environment.

"Players from across the sector (whether incumbent institutions or start-ups) see the value in partnership. Financial institutions and Fintechs want to leverage their respective strengths (like a customer base and scale for banks, and a focus on the user experience for Fintechs) through collaboration.

This input is informing the government's policy approach as it considers how to adapt Canada's institutional frameworks for Fintech. Similarly, the Department of Finance Canada is working to develop a new oversight framework for retail payments.

"Innovation is transforming all segments of the financial sector, and retail payments are at the forefront of this transformation. The evolving nature and complexity of retail payments requires a dialogue between the government and stakeholders to ensure the new oversight framework fosters innovation and competition, and protects users of those services. As an outcome of this consultation, Canada will bring forward new legislation to implement the new oversight frame-

"Canada is also closely monitoring policy developments in other jurisdictions, as technologies and markets are evolving rapidly."

What is the government doing to help prepare Canadians for increased automation and other innovation-fuelled disruptions in the job market? Specifically, is Ottawa doing anything to help Canadians prepare and thrive in the emerging gig economy, marked by fewer, stable 9-to-5 jobs?

"Our government is looking to cre-

ate good, well-paying middle-class jobs now while preparing workers for the jobs of tomorrow. We recognize that technology is changing fast, and with that comes opportunity. That's why Budget 2017's Innovation and Skills Plan made investments that will ensure all Canadians are Canada's workers are equipped with the skills and training they need to succeed in a changing economy.

"As part of that plan we launched the Innovation Superclusters Initiative to invest up to \$950-million to support business-led innovation superclusters that have potential to accelerate economic growth.

lion Strategic Innovation Fund, which has expanded business innovation programming to dynamic and emerging sectors, such as clean technology and agri-food.

We launched our Global Skills Strategy, which recognizes that by facilitating the faster entry of top talent with specialized skill sets and global experience to Canada, we can help innovative companies grow,

the incredible expertise and knowledge that exists in Canada. For example, over the next two decades, artificial intelligence (AI) will help increase productivity of Canadian workers by automating routine tasks so they can bring more strategic value-added skills to their work. Increased innovation and productivity will attract foreign investment into Canada, creating additional highly skilled jobs. Canada can be a leader in this field, building on the extensive work already done at some of the top universities in Canada."

the \$1.26-billion Strategic Innovation Fund is supporting domestic businesses and, more broadly, helping the Canadian economy to become more innovative?

'Making sure that Canada is a top destination for businesses to invest, grow and one of our government's top priority. Since its launch in 2017, Canada's innovative industries have responded positively to the Strategic Innovation Fund. Hundreds of applications have been received through the new single-window program delivery manufacturing, to clean tech and bio-

'The government of Canada has announced the following Strategic Innovation

prepared for the jobs of the future, and that

We announced the launch of a \$1.26-bil-

flourish and create jobs for Canadians. "Automation represents a great opportunity for Canadian workers—leveraging

What update can you provide us on how

create jobs and prosperity for Canadians is office, from sectors ranging from advanced

Fund projects so far:

• \$49-million for Linamar Corporation's



Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains, right, and parliamentary secretary David Lametti test out an electric car that runs on hydrogen power cells in June. According to Mr. Bains, automotive manufacturing companies will benefit from the government's Strategic Innovation Fund. The Hill Times file photograph

advancements in artificial intelligence and advanced manufacturing, creating 1,500 new jobs and securing more than 8,000

• \$41-million for projects involving 11

automotive manufacturing companies located in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia, creating more than 2,600 jobs." mvigliotti@hilltimes.com The Hill Times

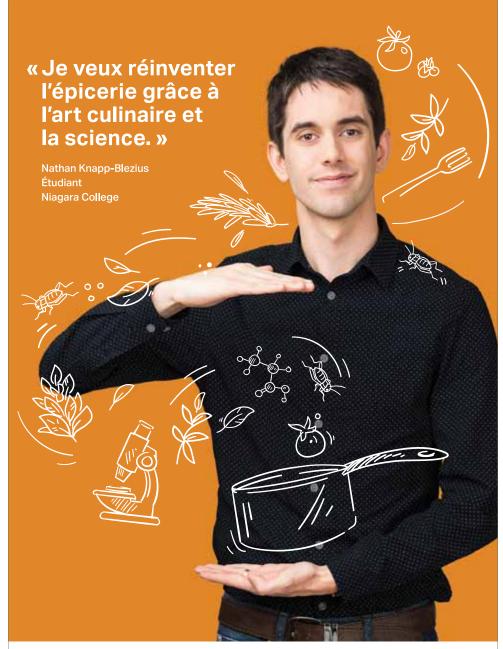
Canadian gross domestic expenditures on research and development (GERD) as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP)

Year	GERD (\$ million)	GDP (\$ million)	GERD/GDP (%)
2012	30,555	1,662,757	1.84
2013	31,834	1,770,014	1.80
2014	32,707	1,831,228	1.79
2015	31,972	1,893,759	1.69
2016	31,825*	1,974,825	1.61*

* Includes preliminary data

Note: GERD refers to all money spent on research and development performed within the country in a given year. The funding may come from government, business enterprise, private non-profit, higher education, or foreign sources.

Source: Statistics Canada



NOUS DONNONS AUX JEUNES CHERCHEURS LES OUTILS NÉCESSAIRES **POUR VOIR GRAND ET INNOVER** #JeSuisInnovation





Opinion

Human rights ombudsperson will bring long-awaited accountability to Canadian mining

The government has an opportunity to entrust the ombudsperson with the responsibility to ensure that the rights of women and girls are respected, that resource extraction does not result in increased genderbased violence, and that the unique perspective and concerns of women are taken into account when resource extraction projects are being considered.



Jennifer Henry

Mining

Nenita Andes Condez risked her life to visit Canada last spring. She was part of a KAIROS tour of Philippine leaders seeking accountability for mining operations from Canadians and government officials. Nenita is an Indigenous Subanen leader from the Philippine island of Mindanao. She advocates for her people in the face of complaints of human rights violations and ecological damage caused by the actions of Canadian mining companies.

Nenita says she lives under constant threat of assassination and is currently unable to return to her village.

Nenita's account of dispossession and threat of violence

is not isolated, or even rare. It is the testimony of many people we have met through our global partners. We have heard accusations of intimidation, threats, and harassment, kidnapping, illegal detention, torture, displacement, loss of livelihood, sexual violence, and even murder at the hands of security, military and para-military forces that serve the overseas operations of some Canadian mining companies and their subsidiaries. Ecological degradation such as contaminated water is another common complaint.

This is why the recent government announcement on the appointment of the Canadian ombudsperson for responsible business enterprise is encouraging. For a decade, civil society organizations, faith groups, and labour unions have been calling for effective corporate accountability, including an independent human rights ombudsperson with the power to investigate. Special rapporteurs, committees, and United Nations working groups have joined this call.

Not all mining companies are culpable, but this lack of account-

ability has cast a long shadow on the entire sector, and on Canada. The ombudsperson announcement is long overdue.

While the government has yet to specify the details, it is encouraging that the ombudsperson will have the power to investigate complaints, issue public findings regarding allegations of harm, and make recommendations for redress, including corporate eligibility for government services. In order to be credible and effective, the office must also be fully independent with the power to compel documents from mining companies accused of abuses.

Plaintiffs who claim harm against Canadian mining operations often have no hope of gaining justice because their domestic legal systems can be corrupt or inaccessible. And, despite recent breakthroughs in cases accessing Canadian courts such as the Nevsun Resources and Tahoe Resources Inc. cases, there's always a chance the Canadian courts will turn them away claiming that the cases lack jurisdiction in this country.

Over the years, members of the international church community have asked KAIROS representatives who travel to the global south tough questions about what Canadian churches are doing to call to account the actions of Canadian mining companies.

These international church members see gaping discrepancies between Canadian rhetoric around human rights and the actions of companies which benefit from the financial and diplomatic support of the Canadian government. They see first-hand the ecological, social, and health impacts of these mining operations with minimal economic

benefit to local communities and increases in conflict and risk. They also see the formidable barriers in seeking justice.

There is also increasing evidence and growing concern about the harmful impacts of resource extraction on women, as highlighted in a 2016 report by the United Nations' Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women Canadian ombudsperson for responsible business enterprise.

Women often acutely feel the negative social, ecological, and economic impacts associated with mining, including increases in sexual violence. They also play a critical role in defending collective rights and the environment. Their perspective is too often ignored.

In November, the Canadian government launched its Feminist International Assistance Policy, prioritizing gender equality and the protection of the rights of women and children in its foreign policy.

With this priority in mind, the government has an opportunity to entrust the ombudsperson with the responsibility to ensure that the rights of women and girls are respected, that resource extraction does not result in increased gender-based violence, and that the unique perspective and concerns of women are taken into account when resource extraction projects are being considered.

Far too often we have been asked "when will Canada take responsibility for the abuses caused by the overseas operations of Canadian mining?" Today, we can tell Nenita and so many others that they will be heard. Finally, there is hope.

Jennifer Henry is the executive director of KAIROS Canada. The Hill Times

Trudeau should enshrine in legislation every Canadian's right to a healthy environment

There is an urgent need for statutory, constitutional, and judicial recognition of the right to a healthy environment in Canada.



Lynda M. Collins

Environment

As scholars and advocates of environmental law, we write to call upon Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government to recognize, protect, and fulfill every Canadian's right to a healthy environment.

Indeed, we believe there is an urgent need for statutory, constitutional, and judicial recog-

nition of the right to a healthy environment in Canada. A robust body of evidence demonstrates that our existing approaches to environmental law have not yet succeeded in securing a sustainable future for present and future Canadians. Overall, the Conference Board of Canada ranks the country as 15th out of 17 developed nations in a comparison of accepted indicators of environmental performance.

Canada's environmental laws are chronically under-enforced, and our poor performance threatens the health of present and future Canadians. The World Health Organization has estimated that environmental hazards cause or contribute to 36,800 premature deaths in Canada each year. Indigenous Canadians are rtionately affected toxic pollution, as evidenced by the egregious contamination of the Aamjiwnaang and Grassy Narrows communities in Ontario. Climate change threatens the sustainability of forestry, agriculture and fisheries, industries on which millions of Canadians depend for their livelihoods. Iconic Canadian species such as the polar bear, woodland caribou, and right whale are threatened or endangered. It seems clear, then, that

new tools are needed in Canadian environmental law.

As you may know, an overwhelming majority of Canadians (92 per cent) agree that Canada should recognize the human right to live in a healthy environment in law. In fact, most believe that environmental rights are already enshrined in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This is a reasonable inference, given that the majority of the world's nations include such a right in their constitutions. In countries, such as Norway, France, and Costa Rica, that enjoy a constitutional environmental right, environmental health improves hand in hand with economic performance. Studies have proven that constitutional recognition of the right to a healthy environment leads to mance, particularly in countries where the rule of law is in good shape, as is the case in Canada.

The UN's Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment is calling on all countries to adopt a global instrument recognizing the right to a healthy environment, in the same way that the UN General Assembly recognized the human right to water and sanitation in 2010. France and other countries are

championing a new Global Pact for the Environment that sets forth widely-agreed-upon principles of environmental law. The first article of the proposed pact states that everyone has the right to live in a healthy environment.

While constitutional change will undoubtedly take time, the Government of Canada has an immediate opportunity to recognize the right to a healthy environment in legislation. The House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development has recommended that this government amend the Canadian Environmental Protection Act to recognize the right to a healthy environment explicitly, and to protect and fulfill this right by ensuring equitable and substanand toxic chemicals. We echo the committee's recommendations in this respect. More than 100 nations as well as Quebec, Ontario, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut already recognize this right in their environmental laws.

Human rights can make a tangible difference in the lives of society's most vulnerable people. We are at a point in history where we face unprecedented environmental challenges including pollution, the loss of biodiversity, and climate change. There is no reason why Canada should resist the global trend towards legislative and constitutional environmental rights, and every reason why we should embrace these concepts as necessary tools for achieving sustainability in the twenty-first century.

The other people who support these views in my column are: Dr. David Boyd, Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability, University of British Columbia; professor Erin Eacott, sessional instructor with the Faculty of Law, University of Alberta; professor Sharon Mascher, Faculty of Law, University of Calgary; professor Heather McLeod-Kilmurray, Centre for Environmental Law and Global Sustainability, University of Ottawa Faculty of Law; professor John Packer, director, Human Rights Research and Education Centre. University of Ottawa Faculty of Law; professor Hall Law School and the Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University and co-director of the Osgoode Environmental Justice & Sustainability Clinic; and professor Penelope Simons, University of Ottawa Faculty of Law.

Lynda M. Collins is a professor at the Centre for Environmental Law & Global Sustainability, University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law.

Comment

The Liberals earlier this month used their majority on the

House Defence Committee to adjourn debate on an opposition Conservative

motion to call

Harjit Sajjan

Defence Minister

Sajjan must explain what's next for Canada in Iraq

The defence minister's elusiveness would appear to indicate that the Trudeau Liberals don't have a clue what to do now that Canada's allies are fighting each other.



Scott Taylor
Inside Defence

OTTAWA—Earlier this month, Conservative Party defence critic James Bezan put forward a motion requesting that Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan appear before a House of Commons committee. It was Bezan's hope that Sajjan could answer questions to Parliament—and, by extension, all Canadians—about the Canadian military's current and future role in Iraq. Bezan also wants to know where Canada now stands on the provision of weapons to the Kurdish militia in northern Iraq.

The Liberals used their majority on the Defence Committee to scuttle Bezan's request to grill Sajjan on this issue. Somewhat feebly, the Liberals offered instead to throw Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Jonathan Vance into the hot seat to discuss Iraq.

However, as it is Vance's responsibility to carry out government policy as instructed, it would be folly to expect him to speculate on the future of Canada's role in Iraq. He will simply do what the Liberal government tells him to do.

At the moment, Sajjan's elusiveness would appear to indicate that the Trudeau Liberals don't have a clue about what to do next.

During the three-year fight to defeat Daesh (also known as Islamic State, ISIS, and ISIL), Canada's elite special-forces units trained Kurdish militia members, and a Canadian field hospital was deployed near Erbil to essentially treat Kurdish fighters wounded in the battle against Daesh.

Seven months ago, the United

States-led coalition defeated the last of the Daesh extremists in the rubble that was once the city of Mosul. And that is when things went horribly, but predictably, wrong: the hodgepodge coalition forces began fighting among themselves.

The Kurdish fighters trained by Canadians found themselves fighting against units loyal to the central Iraqi government in Baghdad—the same Iraqi government Canada's foreign policy purports to support.

During the fight, Canada had announced that it would be arming the Kurdish militia with weapons. Naturally enough, that did not sit well with the regime in Baghdad, which knew all too well that once Daesh was done and dusted, Kurds would start fighting government forces.

On behalf of all Canadians, Bezan wants Sajjan to tell us where these muddled plans are now.

After the Kurds began fighting Iraqi government troops and Shiite militia members, it was announced that Canadian special-forces troops were suspending their role as direct mentors to the Kurdish fighters.

This means that Canada's elite commandos are currently deployed in a violently disputed area with a suspended mission, essentially leaving them in limbo. Like Bezan, I think Sajjan has some serious explaining to do about



to testify on Canada's role in the fight against Daesh. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

what these Canadian soldiers will do next. For now, they sit.

In Canada's heady rush to join the fight against Daesh evildoers back in 2014, somehow nobody took the time to fully analyze the complexity of the multi-factional, ongoing Iraqi conflict.

Now, there is also a question of responsibility for the future of Iraq. Canada was very much a part of the coalition to defeat Daesh, with our soldiers often far exceeding their mandated "advise and assist" roles. There are tales of Canadian snipers greasing Daesh fighters at extreme ranges, and Canadian fighters blowing up Daesh vehicles on the outskirts of Mosul.

However, in the aftermath

However, in the aftermath of the coalition's liberation of Mosul—Iraq's second largest city and once home to more than two million inhabitants—it remains an abandoned pile of rubble.

Seven months after the last of the Daesh diehards was killed, there are still an estimated 9,000 unburied bodies rotting beneath mounds of twisted metal and concrete.

Canada could not wait to be part of the fight, so should we not be just as keen to join in some sort of international reconstruction effort? It is hard to believe that, in this modern era, a major urban centre can be completely destroyed by a U.S.-led air armada assisted by international combat troops and then be simply left in ruins.

If it was not the residents of Mosul—fewer than three per cent of Mosul's displaced inhabitants have returned to the city since the fall of Daesh—then who exactly were Canadian soldiers supposed to be liberating?

Lots of questions for Sajjan, indeed.

Scott Taylor is the editor and publisher of Esprit de Corps magazine.

The Hill Times

It's Canada's time to lead in a world threatened by nuclear destruction

The Atomic Scientists' Doomsday Clock has just ratcheted up to two minutes to midnight, yet Canada seems missing in action.



Douglas Roche

Nonviolence

EDMONTON—In the year marking the 70th anniversary of the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, the founder of the nonviolence movement, Donald Trump is raising the prospect of the use of nuclear weapons, the ultimate form of violence against

humanity. Famous whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg has gone on the CBC and warned "a catastrophe is waiting to happen," and the Atomic Scientists' Doomsday Clock has been set at two minutes to midnight, as close to Armageddon as it has ever been.

And the Canadian government has said—nothing.

has said—nothing.

The prospect of a United
States pre-emptive strike on
North Korea grows by the day,
the Iran deal is clinging to life,
the modernization of nuclear
arsenals by the nuclear powers
charges full steam ahead, the
Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
is being pushed to irrelevancy,
and the new Treaty to Prohibit
Nuclear Weapons can barely get
off the ground.

And the Canadian governmen says—nothing.

What is happening to Canada—the government and the public? Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has just finished a series of town hall meetings across the country and, as far as I can tell, the subject of nuclear weapons and what Canada is doing at this perilous moment in history did not arise. I watch Question Period in the House of Commons most days, but the opposition is more

interested in nailing the prime minister over the ethics of his vacation than the ethics of human survival. The government is focused on NAFTA. Please don't talk about anything else.

In the midst of all this, in an effort to keep my balance, if not my sanity, I think about the principles of nonviolence that Gandhi set in motion: healing, humility, harmony, dialogue, openness, reconciliation, patience, service, witnessing. These attributes of a culture of peace seem lost in Trumpworld. But are they?

We are now in the Season for Nonviolence. Every year between Jan. 30 and April 4, community groups in 900 cities in 67 countries observe the Season for Nonviolence, a grassroots campaign promoting nonviolent action for peace. It is bookended by the anniversaries of the assassinations of Gandhi and Martin Luther King, whose lives were the embodiment of opposing social injustice without the use of force.

Those who relegate nonviolence to the pleasantries of life should consider what it has actually achieved. Gandhi led India to freedom by his nonviolent resistance to British rule. King gained voting rights for Black people in the U.S. Nelson Mandela defeated apartheid in South Africa. The dissolution of the Soviet Union took place nonviolently.

I also think about what Mikhail Gorbachev, in his perestroika days, tried to achieve in launching a foreign policy that decried the use of force. When he introduced that policy at the United Nations in 1988, the delegates cheered for 10 minutes. But this, too, now seems lost in the age of terrorism, rebellion, fear, and loss of belief that governments have an instrumental role in building the conditions for peace.

The lack of protest at Trump blatantly increasing nuclear stocks and threatening more violence tells us that the ethical norms in the world are lowering. And in Canada, too, we are becoming inured to violence as a way of life, despite the valiant efforts of those who see the wisdom and the practicalities of nonviolence.

Far from being passive, nonviolence calls for peaceful, active behaviour in the midst of conflict. It is both a philosophy and a strategy for social change that rejects the gratuitous use of physical violence.

Why can't Canada stand up and clearly tell President Trump: we

are not going along with nuclear modernization and we want to stop the policy of threatened violence against humanity? Why can't Prime Minister Trudeau utter such words? Why can't the mainline media do their duty and warn Canadians of the calamity ahead posed by the new nuclear arms race?

Canada has four opportunities to show leadership in the months ahead. Preparations will be made in April for the 2020 50th anniversary review of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which obliges states to negotiate "in good faith' nuclear disarmament. A special UN High-Level International Conference on Nuclear Disarmament will be held in May, providing new opportunities to raise world public opinion against nuclear weapons. In June, Canada will host and chair the next meeting of the G7 at which security issues will predominate. And in July, a NATO summit will be held, providing an opening to press for a review of NATO's obsolete policies that nuclear weapons are the "supreme guarantee" of security.

Canada could shine at these four international meetings, leading a new chorus calling for action to reduce the dangers of nuclear violence. Or we can sit on the sidelines, wavering and afraid of offending the major powers.

Sick of Trump? Try Gandhi. Douglas Roche, a former Independent Senator and former Canadian ambassador for disarmament, is the author of Hope Not Fear: Building Peace in a Fractured World.

NDP MPs walk fine line in Alberta-B.C. pipeline dispute dividing their party

While they side with the 'reasonable' B.C. premier's attempt to block the Kinder Morgan pipeline, they say Alberta's response is also understandable. Ultimately, they're trying to refocus attention to blame the federal Liberals.

BY SAMANTHA WRIGHT ALLEN

As NDP governments in Alberta and British Columbia feud over Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline, NDP MPs are treading a tight line in trying to support both provincial counterparts while also vocally in favour of vote-rich B.C.'s blockage of a pipeline they say never should have been approved.

The two provinces are embroiled in a trade dispute after B.C. Premier John Horgan said his government is proposing to increase restrictions on the transportation of diluted bitumen into the province as part of its oil spill response plan. In response to what Alberta Premier Rachel Notley said is an unconstitutional move, last week she said her province would ban B.C. wine imports.

Both Ms. Notley and the Conservatives have called on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (Papineau, Que.) to get B.C. in line. The NDP also say it's the Liberals' mess to fix, but that the pipeline-approved in 2016 to stretch from Edmonton, Alta. to Burnaby, B.C.—needs to go through an improved environmental assessment process.

Asked about their and federal NDP leader Jagmeet Singh's role in sorting out the conflict, NDP MPs are also keen to focus the attention on Mr. Trudeau and away from internal party divisions. They say it's a matter Mr. Trudeau

B.C. NDP MP Randall Garrison (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke, B.C.) summarized where the party stands on the provincial dispute most succinctly: "The federal party has taken a strong stance against [the] Kinder Morgan pipeline. Period, finished, over, done,"he said, adding he doesn't think the dispute will affect the party's convention in Ottawa this weekend, though many other observers said it will colour the expected discussions on pipeline policy.

MPs resisted the idea that the federal NDP's relationship with B.C. is more important than with Alberta and that the federal party is more aligned with the coastal province.

'Depends who you ask." said Linda Duncan (Edmonton Strathcona, Alta.), the only NDP MP in



B.C. Premier John Horgan, left and Alberta Premier Rachel Notley, right, met in Ottawa last October at the First Ministers' Meeting. A few months later and the two western NDP governments are locked in a heated trade dispute as the two face off over the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline expansion and B.C.'s attempt to block bitumen crossing its borders through environmental regulations. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

Alberta, adding she believes in strong ocean protection laws.

There is total consensus within my caucus. We've been consistent in making that demand: don't approve any more projects until you have this improved environmental assessment process and you deliver on the rights and interests and benefits to First Nation communities."

B.C. is a key province, both in terms of membership numbers and political power for the party. The B.C. caucus' 14 members make it the second largest (only Quebec has more NDP MPs: 16). The provinces has historically made up about a third of NDP membership, and it was a region identified early on by Mr. Singh when he was still a leadership candidate as a place for membership growth.

The party's newly named B.C. liaison Nathan Cullen said even though the western NDP governments are in disagreement now, rather than a problem it "ultimately will be a strength going into 2019" as the party builds toward an election under new leadership.

While it may appear initially challenging, I see it as an opportunity to show the kind of leadership that we would present



Edmonton Strathcona MP Linda Duncan is the federal NDP's only Albertan in caucus. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

as an alternative to Trudeau," said Mr. Cullen (Skeena-Bulkley Val-

Veteran NDP strategist Karl Bélanger said he's not sure if having the two NDP government butting heads, in what could be a protracted dispute, is harmful to the national party "but it's not helpful.'

The federal leader has to try to have a balanced approach and handle it very careful. At the same time, the grassroots might have different ideas."

Pipelines bubbled up as a divisive issue at the party's last convention in the heart of oil country, Edmonton, in 2016, as members debated whether to support the Leap Manifesto, which would further restrict fossil fuel use.

The federal wing's balance appears in the messaging Mr. Singh gave reporters last week and repeated by both his B.C. caucus and lone Alberta MP. They all signalled support for Mr. Horgan's actions to fulfil what they see as a promise the Liberals broke, while in the same breath saying Ms. Not-

ley's response is understandable. Mr. Singh told reporters in Ottawa last week the pipeline should have been "subject to that assessment that was modernized, that was up to date."The Liberals approved the Trans Mountain pipeline before overhauling environmental assessment regulations, however the environment minister said it would have been approved even under the new rules proposed last week. It's an important project because it would open an export route to the Pacific from Alberta's oilsands.

All NDP MPs were careful not to criticize Ms. Notley's response, noting she's doing what Albertans expect, but their critiques of the project and the federal government's approach ultimately puts them firmly in B.C.'s camp.

"[The Liberal government] promised it would not approve Kinder Morgan under the existing review mechanism and then it approved it," said Mr. Garrison. "The federal government is already in a big contradiction with its own provinces.'

Mr. Cullen said in an interview last week that he's been speaking to NDP counterparts in both B.C. and Alberta.

I'm having some conversations with Alberta colleagues to see what the mood is, to see what resolution looks like. Many of them have pointed me back towards Trudeau saying 'We want him engaged and we want him to help resolve this," he said. "There's been nothing but positive encouragement form our Alberta friends to keep pressing on the prime minister.

Mr. Cullen said he's seen "a strong level of support" among his B.C. colleagues for Mr. Horgan's position and "a respect and understanding" for Premier Notley's position.

"It's reasonable to want to know diluted bitumen spills will actually be taken care of rather than waiting to see them happen and having an experiment in our natural environment.'

He said his new role, created last month at the behest of both Mr. Singh and Mr. Horgan, is to keep "the channels open" with B.C. and "making sure that [we're] totally in tune with what the government there is asking for, which I think is reasonable.

The ridings of NDP MPs Kennedy Stewart (Burnaby South, B.C.) and Murray Rankin (Victoria, B.C.) are both at what the Mr. Rankin called "ground zero" for the pipeline. They said the Liberals are out of touch with B.C. voters and those most affected by the pipeline.

"They just haven't done their due diligence and I just worry that it's going to end up as a catastrophe. So, I'll do what I can, but they're not listening, and they won't come to Burnaby. They won't go to the reserves," said Mr. Stewart.

Like Mr. Rankin, who noted regional disputes are common, Mr. Stewart said he's "not as concerned about the provincial dispute" as the national project makes it entirely Mr. Trudeau's decision.

"The question I asked is how many people is he willing to arrest because, you know Ottawa's a long way from Burnaby and people don't seem to be gauging the temperature there very well at all,"Mr. Stewart said.

-with files from Charelle Evelyn swallen@hilltimes.com

NDP Convention agenda



NDP convention delegates will have lots of policy resolutions to chew over this weekend at their biennial convention in Ottawa. The Hill Times file photograph

All events take place at the Shaw Centre, 55 Colonel By Dr., Ottawa, unless otherwise noted.

THURSDAY, FEB. 15

7-10 a.m. Youth convention registration 8:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. Youth convention

3-9 p.m. Convention registration

FRIDAY, FEB. 16

7 a.m.-8:15 p.m. Registration opens

8:45-10:15 a.m. Prioritization panels

10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Prioritization panels

1:30-6:30 p.m. Plenary

6:30-7:30 p.m. Persons Living with disAbilities Committee, LGBTQ+ Commission, Labour Caucus

7:30-10 p.m. Ignite Reception (The Albion Rooms, 33 Nicholas St.)

SATURDAY, FEB. 17

7 a.m.-7:45 p.m. Registration

7:30-9 a.m. Women's Council

9 a.m.-12 p.m. Plenary

12-1 p.m. Regional caucuses

1:15-6 p.m. Plenary

6-7 p.m. Participation of Visible Minorities Committee, Aboriginal Commission

7-9 p.m. Love & Courage Gala: Our Vision (Trillium Ballroom, Shaw Centre)

9 p.m. Reconnect Social (Trillium Ballroom, Shaw Centre)

SUNDAY, FEB. 18

9 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Plenary 1-2:45 p.m. Federal Council

Note: Events are subject to change.

Source: ottawa2018.ndp.ca

NDP to debate new harassment policy at this weekend's party convention

In the wake of allegations against a former and current NDP MP, anti-harassment approaches will be 'front and centre' of discussions, says the NDP national director.

Continued from page 1

revised anti-harassment policy, after a months-long revision process.

More than 1,800 delegates have signed up—a policy convention record—for the Feb. 15 to 18 event to discuss almost 400 resolutions, the best of which will help form a platform leader Jagmeet Singh will sell to Canadians over the next two years in the lead-up to the fall 2019 general election.

But it may be the emergency resolutions that steal the show. Over the last two weeks, a current and former NDP MP have been accused of harassment. Saskatchewan MP Erin Weir (Regina-Lewvan, Sask.) has denied wrongdoing, and the party is conducting a third-party investigation after MP Christine Moore (Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Que.) said in an email to caucus that "There are too many women [mostly employees who have] complained to me that you were harassing to them," though no specific allegations were brought forward.

Former longtime MP Peter Stoffer, who was defeated in the 2015 election, has been accused by several women of sexual misconduct in what former staff and caucus members described as an open secret. Mr. Stoffer apologized for his behaviour but denied any sexual misconduct, calling himself "a hugger" and "a touchy person."

The party's response should be a focus of the convention, as far as Ian Capstick is concerned. The founder of the media relations firm MediaStyle and a former NDP press secretary said while the discussion is both uncomfortable and awkward, the party needs to "fix the idiocy" all MPs have helped create in Canadian politics.

"What I hope is that we see some creative New Democrat men stepping up to own some of the responsibility they have with regards to this incident and others and figure out how we're going to root out misogyny, homophobia, bullying, and a host of other well-known things that happen on Parliament Hill. That's critical because everyone is watching and New Democrats need to lead the way," said Mr. Capstick.

"This policy convention is going to be a battleground for that," he added.

He said Mr. Singh's team, made up of more millennial staff than ever before, represents a "generational change" in Canadian politics and he thinks they are listening.

NDP interim national director Melissa Bruno said over the last number of months a working group of the party's federal council members has been reviewing the NDP anti-harassment and discrimination policy to make it "more robust."

The Canadian Press reported this week that delegates will be presented with the revised policy at the convention, which will include guidance on bringing forward a complaint. A senior party official speaking to CP said the party had realized its existing policy was too narrowly focused on activities at conventions and didn't relate to staff working on campaigns or office relationships.

Separately, a resolution from delegates to boost the party's anti-harassment policy is high on the party's prepared list of priority resolutions to be discussed at



Former NDP press secretary Ian Capstick said addressing harassment within the party should be a focus at its convention this weekend. *The Hill Times file photograph*



Leap Manifesto co-author Avi Lewis chats with a fellow delegate at the 2016 NDP convention in Edmonton, which adopted a motion to continue discussions of the policy document. The Hill Times photograph by Laura Ryckewaert

the convention, but given the urgency around the issue, it's likely emergency resolutions will be brought forward on the subject as well. Emergency resolutions can be presented as late as Feb. 16 and are slated for discussion for 30 minutes on Feb. 18, compared to the usual hour granted for blocks of discussion.

"It's definitely front and centre for our mind and I'm sure it is for delegates," said Ms. Bruno.

The party will also have antiharassment officers on hand at the convention, as it has in years past, to help facilitate a "safe environment," Ms. Bruno said. The party's president will read a statement on the subject to kick off the event.

"It sort of sets the tone and the expectation for delegates for the entire weekend," she said.

Former Quebec MP Élaine Michaud, who was defeated in the 2015 election after four years in the House, said the fact that formal complaints in the case of Mr. Stoffer had been made to the party's leadership but not enough was done is "troubling to me and I hope the party takes it seriously."

The policy package has been whittled down to 397 resolutions from the more than 1,000 and not all will make it to the convention floor. The 151-page document is broken down to seven themes, each getting about an hour of debate, with only the 10 to 20 resolutions at the top of the list likely to be addressed. The themes are: governing, sustainability, human rights, innovation and energy economy, social support, international issues, and the general party-focused "building our momentum."

It will be an opportunity for the party to put "more meat on the bones," as MP Nathan Cullen (Skeena-Bulkley Valley, B.C.) put it, for the party to serve to Canadians.

MPs said the convention can serve as a springboard for the leader who, as a third party leader and one out of Parliament, at times struggles to get coverage.

MP Matthew Dubé (Beloeil-Chambly, Que.) said there's "more work to be done" getting Mr. Singh known to Canadians and to flesh out some of the party's key policy messages of the last few months on issues like inequality and the environment.

"It's great to talk about inequality, but what does that mean?" he said. "It's vague. There's not necessarily anything specific related to that. And that's

what's fun about a policy convention is you can start getting out those specific notions."

Here are some other debates sure to hit the floor this weekend:

Leap Manifesto

Two years after the Leap Manifesto made waves at the party's Edmonton convention, it's unclear what direction the party will take on the divisive policy document penned by Canadian social and environmental activists, which seeks to restrict fossil fuel usage and, if adopted, would be expected to veer the party more to the left. Mention of the manifesto appears in four separate resolutions, which are in the low 40s to 60s on the themed priority lists. Some of the Leap authors are convening ahead of the convention in an Ottawa event that features organizers for U.S. Democratic Senator Bernie Sanders and British Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn.

Riding associations across the country have held discussions on the Leap Manifesto, said MP and party Quebec lieutenant Alexandre Boulerice (Rosemont-La Petite Patrie, Que.), his included.

"I think there's a large agreement that we will take some good ideas in the Leap Manifesto—doesn't mean as a party [we] have to officially adopt a document that is from outside the party."

MP Murray Rankin (Victoria, B.C.) said Leap "continues to be a significant issue" in many ridings near Toronto and the Lower Mainland in British Columbia.

"It's been a galvanizing set of ideas," but by no means the only focus on energy and environment, he said, adding "climate change is the crisis of this generation."

One resolution calls on the party to recognize it "has sparked a vital debate," while another goes further, saying it should endorse the document's vision.

Eliminating tuition fees

More than 30 riding associations are calling on the party to, if it forms government, work with provinces to offer free tuition for post-secondary education.

Ms. Michaud sits on the Yukon riding association, which was one of the signatories, and said she hopes to see it high on delegates' minds.

"It's one of the resolutions that has gathered the most support from [riding associations] across the country and it shows that it's an important debate to have and there is definitely a momentum to bring education to the forefront," said Ms. Michaud.

It's currently ranked 18 in its section, so that specific resolution may not make to the floor. Resolutions that don't get discussed will be deferred to federal council.

The call for affordable or free tuition appears in at least six different resolutions.

Palestine-Israel

Everything that touches the question of the ongoing conflict between Palestinians and Israelis is "hotly debated" at convention, said Ms. Michaud. This year, six resolutions mention Palestine.

"It's a hard issue for the party. A lot of activists within the NDP feel like we haven't done enough to support human rights for Palestinians," she said. "We need to have this debate. It's an important one to have for the party."

One resolution is high on the list related to "Canada's place in the world," putting it behind only arms exports and NAFTA. But it's the least controversial of those in the package calling for a stronger approach to Palestine. The resolution most likely to make it to the floor says the NDP condemns violations on "both sides in this conflict" and United States President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Further down the list is a resolution supported by about 30 groups calling on Israel to "end its occupation." Another calls on the party to condemn Israeli settlements, while a third says the NDP should support the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement to put pressure on Israel. The NDP Socialist Caucus, which is not an official party body, is sure to be a vocal group, though the language of its resolution didn't make the policy booklet.

While former leader Thomas Mulcair (Outremont, Que.) was open in his opposition to the BDS movement, Mr. Singh has presented an opening for a party, given that he in the past voted against a legislative motion condemning the BDS campaign.

During the leadership race in response to candidate questions, Mr. Singh has said he would "consider supporting the use of targeting sanctions against Israel" and is willing to support "mandatory labelling of products" from Israeli settlements and last year he tweeted "I stand for Palestinians' right to freely determine their political status."

swallen@thehilltimes.com The Hill Times

NDP revs fundraising engine to meet 'ambitious' \$9M target in 2018

The party plans to double last year's haul and quadruple its fundraising team in 2018. But one analyst says MPs have been lazy fundraisers and can't rely solely on Jagmeet Singh's star power.

BY SAMANTHA WRIGHT ALLEN

Four months into Jagmeet Singh's leadership, the NDP is ramping up its fundraising machine with an "aggressive" goal to raise \$9-million—double 2017's haul, which still left the party lagging far behind the Conservatives and Liberals.

The party has less than two years to build its depleted war chest ahead of the next general election in 2019, but party supporters say its fundraisers finally have a product—namely Mr. Singh—that members can get behind and a new team that embraces lessons learned from the new leader's fundraising campaign that eclipsed all leadership rivals.

The \$9-million needed to mark 2018 as a success is an aggressive target, acknowledged NDP interim national director Melissa Bruno.

A leader can be considered a product the party sells to people, Ms. Bruno said, and Mr. Singh has proven to be "a very marketable product" who appeals to people beyond the party's existing membership lists, creating potential to broaden the base. His campaign boasted of signing up more than 47,000 new members during 13 weeks of the leadership campaign.

"It's a matter of making sure we do our due diligence to make sure we start talking to different people in the right way with a very clear ask," said Ms. Bruno, who volunteered as a part-time adviser for the former Ontario MPP's leadership campaign.

Last year, the NDP raised \$4.87-million—a slight dip from 2016's \$5.42-million and lower than the previous six years but nowhere near the leading Tories' \$18.85-million or Liberals' \$14.06-million. The last time the NDP came close to raking in that amount was during the excitement of the 2015 election, which many saw as the party's first chance to form government. Fundraisers eclipsed all previous records for the party, bringing in \$18.6-million—more than double any previous annual windfall.

While Ms. Bruno said they're not likely to match either party dollar-for-dollar, the low-cost digital tools not yet used by the party means they can still "stay competitive" and makes \$9-million an "achievable goal"

"achievable goal."

The NDP's 2017 total doesn't include the more than \$1.4-million raised by six leadership candidates—but that amount wasn't as much of a boost to the party as people hoped. Of all federal parties, the NDP takes the largest cut from its leadership candidates, pulling 25 per cent for national coffers.

Nearly half of the party's 2017 fundraising haul—\$2.04-million—came during the fourth quarter, the first reporting interval under new party leader Jagmeet Singh. Ms. Bruno said the party sees that as a good sign, but acknowledged that bump is typical in fourth quarters, including in 2016 when the party raised a similar amount.

The party also trails in money spent on fundraising, allotting \$315,815 in 2016 to that line item compared to the \$6.86-million the Conservatives spent and \$3.12-million by the Liberals, according to Elections Canada.

Learning from the leadership campaign



NDP interim national director Melissa Bruno says the party hopes to raise \$9-million this year. *Photograph* courtesy of the NDP

Of the \$9-million goal, the party has targeted 30 per cent through digital fundraising, which Ms. Bruno said is low



NDP leader Jagmeet Singh's ability to connect with people in the room, like at this event in Brampton, Ont., last year, has a direct impact on the dollars his campaign brings in, says his former fundraiser. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

cost but generates "really great returns." About 45 per cent is expected from monthly donors, whom Ms. Bruno said the party will be hitting up more often. They're also listening to feedback that suggests supporters are more likely to give if money isn't the sole reason for contact. The party will spend "quite a bit" on donoracquisition activities because some of its lists are stale.

Another 15 per cent will be from events, both intimate dinners and big bashes. Ms. Bruno said she imagines packing a hall full of 500 to 600 people who have paid up to \$300 for an event—and that includes the upcoming policy convention which features two such events.

That's welcome news to Aaron Webber, who was co-director of fundraising on Mr. Singh's campaign. He said the party needs to invest in fundraising to do "aggressive prospecting" for new donors. He said events were especially successful for bringing dollars in because of the charismatic candidate's ability to connect with people, but that was just one aspect of an approach that fundraised "in every possible way," including a multilingual phone bank, huge digital fundraising, Facebook ads and email pushes. Peer-to-peer fundraising

Peer-to-peer fundraising became a key source of revenue during the campaign and that's what "stood out" to Mr. Webber, who thinks it can scale up if the party continues to create "a culture of every member is a fundraiser."

Mr. Singh's ability to connect with people in a room results in more dollars in the door and the politician is better than most at getting contacts and sharing his own with interested members, Mr. Webber said. But the key is having a team in place that follows up on business cards collected, names on the backs of napkins and numbers punched in phones.

"That's what organizing and building an actual movement is," he said. "I think we haven't really seen the Jagmeet Singh engine really in full gear on what it can do in fundraising."

Mr. Webber said the campaign had "incredible success with membership sign ups" and that can't be separated from fundraising because the two used a lot of the same techniques.

That seems to be one of Ms. Bruno's takeaways as well. She said the party is "marrying" the fundraising and outreach departments rather than keeping them in silos. Just last week the party

appointed Melanie Scholz as new director of fundraising. The former deputy director of fundraising has worked for the federal party on fundraising in some capacity since 2011, according to her LinkedIn profile.

The team has six people working in the dual role of raising funds and member outreach. That's two more than the party's pre-Singh team and Ms. Bruno said they plan to hire 10 to 15 regionally based staff in 2018.

The party's digital director, Nader Mohamed, will continue the work he did in the same role on Mr. Singh's campaign. He's been in touch with the party's first-ever digital director, Michael Roy, who isn't working for the party now but is involved in an "informal advice-giving" capacity, but Ms. Bruno said there's a "very big possibility" that could become formalized ahead of the election. Mr. Roy oversaw the party's digital efforts ahead of the 2015 election, which saw a massive spike in online giving as part of a historic \$18.6-million raised for the party.

MPs not doing enough, need to be 'fundraising engines': NDP strategist



lan Capstick, founder of MediaStyle and a former NDP press secretary, says MPs need to get more involved in fundraising. The Hill Times file photograph

NDP analyst Ian Capstick said the entire caucus needs to be "relentless" in its fundraising efforts and do a much better job of working with local ridings to increase monthly donors through a "concerted push."

MPs need to be "fundraising engines," said Mr. Capstick.

"Some could be accused of being lazy on the front of fundraising and need to step it up," he said, adding the party needs to attract more "maximum-dollar-donors" who give \$1,500 by year-end. "We don't make enough

money in Canadian politics that it could interfere with policy decisions so it's incumbent on them to raise more money and they're not."

Several observers spoke of a reluctance that in the past has prevented the party from aggressively going after donations. But in order to compete against the leading parties' machine, that culture will need to shift.

Former Montreal-area MP Laurin Liu, elected for one term in 2011, said while the party's 2017 total "wasn't what many would hope for," she has heard good things about the experience being brought in by the new team.

"For the past couple of years we've had a [former] national director [Robert Fox] who hasn't had experience in political fundraising or political campaigning and so moving forward I have high hopes for the team Jagmeet put into place," she said, adding the party has strong fundraising strength. "Like the Conservatives our strength in fundraising comes from small donations from a wide base of grassroots supporters, and that's something we really need to work on."

The party has also consistently trailed the governing Liberals and official opposition Conservatives in the polls, with recent polling by Nanos Research putting them at or slightly below 20 per cent support, more than 10 points behind their next competitor.

While B.C. liaison Nathan Cullen (Skeena-Bulkley Valley, B.C.) said he remembered a time the party would have been "popping champagne corks" to reach that level of support, expectations have changed. He said more Canadians will be "tuning in" to what Mr. Singh and the party has to say and that should shift the polls.

The real test will be the first quarter of 2018, said Karl Bélanger, who was principal secretary to former leader Thomas Mulcair, given getting a well-oiled machine takes some time. But the party needs to "step up" because the numbers are too low.

"At this point in the game the party is trailing too far behind the two other main parties in order to be competitive come 2019 so there is a need for the party, for the leader, for the MPs, for the candidates, for the entire organization to increase its fundraising capacity," Mr. Bélanger said. "No question about it."

swallen@hilltimes.com The Hill Times

NDP could be in for divisive Israel-Palestine debate

A resolution is set to be debated at this week's convention that touches on a boycott of some Israeli goods. Campaigns for and against have already begun.



Peter Larson

Policy resolutions

New NDP leader Jagmeet Singh would probably prefer to avoid a public debate over Israel and Palestine at the party's policy convention in Ottawa this week, but forces both outside and inside the party will probably make that impossible.

Party members will be looking to see what attitude Mr. Singh has toward this issue. As a member of the Ontario legislature, he was one of the few people to oppose a resolution condemning the boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement meant to put pressure on Israel (BDS). However, some NDP party members note that he took a free weeklong trip to Israel last year organized and funded by the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), a pro-Israel lobby group.

Historically, NDP policy on this issue has been based on the assumption that the answer lies in a two-state solution ("peaceful, co-existence in viable, independent states with agreed-upon borders"). But the very idea of a "two-state solution" (a Jewish state and an Arab state), is looking ever less likely as Israel builds more settlements and Israeli politicians are increasingly open about their rejection of the idea of any Palestinian state.

Competing pressures inside the party

Last summer, a group of 80 academics and activist members of the NDP sent an open letter to the party leadership candidates arguing it was "time for the NDP stand with Palestine."

Strong statements in support of Palestinian human rights have also come from some of the NDP's important institutional supporters including Unifor, the largest private sector union in Canada, and the Canadian Labour Congress.

In the last several months, a draft

"Palestine resolution" has been circulated widely within the party. Yazan Khader, one of those behind it, claims the resolution has received support from over 23 riding associations, and more are expected.

The draft resolution uses rather cautious language and is moderate in tone. Most of it calls for the applications of policies that are Canada's official but rarely applied positions, calling on Israel to "end its occupation and settlement program, lift the Gaza blockade, recognize its Arab-Palestinian citizens' right to full equality, and address refugee claims fairly." However, it does call for an outright ban on goods produced in the Israeli settlements, which will make Israel's defenders hostile.

Already the reaction to the proposal has shown how volatile the Israel-Palestine issue can be for a political party, and how quickly tempers can rise on both sides.

One eager Palestinian human rights advocate writing on social media speculated excitedly that perhaps the NDP was about to become "the first Canadian federal party to support the movement to boycott Israel, known as BDS."

On the other hand, an article in the *Canadian Jewish News* warned jittery Canadian Jews "NDP to debate BDS motion at its National Convention in Ottawa." Canadian Friends of Simon Wiesenthal was so concerned that it denounced the resolution and urged Singh to stop it from even being presented at all.

Waving the BDS "bogeyman" will of course make many NDP members nervous. It will also scare the leadership. But in fact, an endorsement of BDS seems rather unlikely, as the "Palestine resolution" does not mention BDS at all and its call to ban settlement goods falls well short of the BDS call to boycott all goods produced by Israel

'Two states' or just 'human rights'?

There seems to be growing pressure in the NDP to replace its commitment to an ever less likely two-state solution with a stronger stance on Palestinian human rights.

It is no secret that the NDP membership is increasingly unhappy with Israeli actions, and generally feels sympathy for the Palestinians. But it remains divided on the issue of what to do about it. Some want to take firm action. Others hesitate, concerned perhaps about security for Israeli Jews or the inevitable accusations of anti-Semitism if they stiffen their critique of Israeli actions.

The leadership, including Singh and Hélène Laverdière, the NDP foreign policy critic, will likely prefer one of the other less-strident resolutions being sent to the convention, perhaps calling for goods from the illegal Israeli settlements (including wine) to be "labelled" rather than imposing an outright ban.

Shimon Fogel, president of CIJA, recently told his members that he is working privately with several senior members of the NDP caucus to ensure "extreme left" elements are not successful in influencing NDP policy. Several NDP caucus members openly identify themselves as "friends" of Israel and participate in the Canada-Israel Interparliamentary Group. NDP caucus members Randall Garrison and Murray Rankin are both on its executive committee. It will be interesting to see what role they play in the upcoming convention.

Given the intense interest in the subject, and apparently growing sympathy among the NDP base for the Palestinian plight, a stiffening of NDP policy on Israel-Palestine seems very likely. The question is: how far will it go?

Peter Larson is the chair of Canada Talks Israel/Palestine, an Ottawa-based non-governmental organization focused on promoting a thoughtful discussion of Canada's policy towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

 $The \ Hill \ Times$

Stopping online piracy is not censorship

A new proposal to block Canadians from accessing websites that engage in piracy, while imposing safeguards to protect users' digital rights, is balanced and pragmatic.





Alan McQuinn & Daniel Castro

CRTC

The Canadian Radio-television and CRTC) is communications Commission (CRTC) is considering a proposal to block Canadians from accessing websites that "blatantly, overwhelming, or structurally engage in piracy."The proposal expands on successful efforts in other countries to address the growing problem of online piracy, while imposing extraordinary safeguards to protect users' digital rights. In short, it is a balanced and pragmatic attempt to address online piracy that has garnered support from a diverse group of stakeholders, including broadcasters, distributors, media companies, internet service providers (ISPs), and artists in the film, TV, and music industries. Yet for some of the most extreme digital activists, any attempt at addressing copyright infringement, is a step too far.

The proposal before the CRTC would create an antipiracy non-profit called the Internet Piracy Review Agency (IPRA). The IPRA would identify websites that egregiously

pirated content and, upon their recommendations, the CRTC would work with ISPs to block subscribers' access to those websites. This approach has already been tested in many other countries, and Canada is not the first to block unlawful content. At least 25 countries—including Argentina, Belgium, France, and the United Kingdom—have created systems to block piracy websites. Some of these systems are administered by governmental agencies, like the CRTC, while others are administered by courts. Not only do these countries still have a free and open internet, but these policies have effectively driven users away from illegal websites.

However, a few internet activists insist this proposal is "sweeping internet censorship." For example, University of Ottawa professor Michael Geist warned that the proposal is "enormously problematic," "raises serious due-process concerns," and threatens to "gradually expand into demands for blocking of a wide range of other content."But there is no substance to back up these assertions. The proposal outlines a process with extensive checks and balances that would only take down sites egregiously engaged in copyright infringement.

No serious reading of this proposal would suggest that sites that have minor copyright violations would get caught up in takedown efforts. Furthermore, any website blocked in this way would be able to appeal the decision with the IPRA and, if that fails, have access to judicial review by the Federal Court of Appeal. This process minimizes the possibility that any legitimate sites would be blocked.

The advocacy group OpenMedia started an online petition to stop the measure, falsely claiming that the proposal would lead to the end of net neutrality in Canada. However, net neutrality was never designed as a defence against distributing unlawful content. It is absurd to suggest that, for example, if an ISP blocks a website that distributes child pornography it would somehow violate net neutrality principles. Websites focused on distributing illegal content are no different. Moreover, if enacted, the CRTC would make the decisions about what sites ISPs block, allowing ISPs to remain neutral in how they treat internet traffic.

Brenda McPhail of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, argues that the proposal is unnecessary because copyright holders can go to court and get a takedown order—an impractical solution given that many of the most widely accessed pirate sites are hosted abroad and the time and expense of doing so for domestic sites is disproportionately high compared to the low cost of moving a website to a new domain.

Most of these critics ignore the magnitude of the piracy problem in Canada. Canadians contribute to three per cent of total global piracy, visiting piracy websites roughly 1.9 billion times in 2016. These sites often expose users to online threats: one in three piracy sites exposes visitors

University of Ottawa professor Michael Geist has warned that a proposed system to block websites that engage in piracy 'raises serious due-process concerns,' and threatens to 'gradually expand into demands for blocking of a wide range of other content.' The Hill Times file photograph

to malware.
Moreover,
seven per cent
or over one million Canadian
households own
streaming
media boxes
enabled with
software designed to allow
users to stream
pirated content.

Cultural industries—which contribute

over \$54.6-billion and over 150,000 jobs to the Canadian economy—may already be feeling the effects of rampant piracy. Data from the CRTC shows that between 2012 and 2016, subscriptions for cable and satellite TV declined as Canadians turned to online streaming services—both legal and illegal—resulting in plummeting revenues.

The CRTC is currently reviewing the IPRA proposal and accepting comments on it. During this process, the agency should investigate how this approach has been successfully used in other countries and move swiftly to adopt similar measures to protect Canadian consumers, content makers, and distributors.

Daniel Castro (@castrotech) is vice president at the Washington-based Information Technology and Innovation Foundation and director of its Center for Data Innovation. Alan McQuinn (@AlanMcQuinn) is a research analyst at the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation.

News Manning Networking Conference

Conservatives at Manning conference seek ways to court female, millennial, urban voters

The Tories need to tap into these key groups to win in 2019, says observers. 'Getting women voters to support the Conservatives is probably the single largest obstacle for them winning the next election,' says pollster Nik Nanos.

Continued from page 1

The Conservative base is traditionally over 40 years old, male, and cares about fiscal issues, said pollster Nik Nanos in a separate interview. Conservatives need to lessen the gap with women, who tend to vote more for more centre-left parties, to take the election, he said. They also need to gain the millennial vote, the largest voting cohort in 2019.

"Getting women voters to support the Conservatives is probably the single largest obstacle for them winning the next election," he said, adding Stephen Harper narrowed the gap by focusing on family-friendly policies.

As of Feb. 9, Nanos showed

As of Feb. 9, Nanos showed the Liberals at 38.1 per cent support, followed by the Conservatives at 30.4, and the NDP at 18.5 per cent, with the Greens at 8.8 per cent and the Bloc Québécois at 3.1 per cent. The poll is considered accurate plus or minus 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The numbers vary, but Liberals also come out on top for women and those aged 18-29.

"We have a prime minister that is among the most ardent support of women's issues that we have seen in a long time," Mr. Nanos said. "It is not just lip service, but it is a top priority of the prime minister and the Liberal government."

Conservatism and feminism align: MP Harder

Conservative MP Rachael Harder (Lethbridge, Alta.), the party's status of women critic who participated in a Feb. 9 panel discussion on feminism and Conservatism, told *The Hill Times* that "arguably conservatism and feminism go together better than any other party."

"As Conservatives, we truly believe that women are equal to one another, and equal to men," she said.

From her experience, she said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (Papineau, Que.) determines what is right and wrong for Canadian women. Ms. Harder lost her bid to chair the House Status of Women Committee in October because the majority Liberals on the committee disagreed that she should be chair because of her anti-



David Coletto, CEO of Abacus Data, speaks at the Spotlight on The Next 10 Per Cent panel at the Manning Networking Conference on Feb. 9, along with consultant Brooke Pigott, centre, and Conservative campaign manager Hamish Marshall, right. Millennials will be the largest voting cohort for the first time in 2019. *The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade*

abortion views. The Conservatives need to make an effort to engage with women and other groups, she said, saying it's time the party does "nine parts listening and one part talking."

Mr. Scheer has indicated he wants more women to run as candidates in the next election, and Ms. Harder said Conservatives need to communicate this to Canadians. Women often don't think they're qualified to run; Conservatives must prioritize communicating their capability, said Ms. Harder.

She disagreed with gender quotas, though, along the lines of Mr. Trudeau's gender-balanced cabinet. A gender quota "just breeds insecurity," she said, adding that women should be judged on their qualifications.

David Coletto, the CEO of Abacus Data, speaking at a Feb, 9 panel discussion on millennials, said Conservatives haven't done badly historically with millennials, and don't have a bad record on issues under-35s care about, such as the environment or international development. But they should stay away from divisive rhetoric, he advised, as millennials value collaboration.

About 51 per cent of Canadians are open to voting Conservative, according to Abacus Data polling information, but only 26 per cent would vote Conservative today.

More than half of the millennial cohort—those born between 1980 and 2000—don't believe in god, Mr. Coletto added. This could be challenging for a party with a base that is socially conservative, he said, but the balance isn't unique to Conservatives.

"In a world where you fundraise off of small donors now, it requires you to find a balance, and sometimes that balance is difficult," he said. "I think it is harder for the Conservatives to do, because it's too easy to get painted as these sort of negative characters."

He added that the party's leadership has stood firm against racist, homophobic, and anti-environmental views, so "it's about communicating that as best you can." In a post on his firm's website about the panel, Mr. Coletto said the Conservatives need to further appeal to renters, be more open to immigration, and have a robust policy around climate change in order to capitalize on voters considering voting Conservative.

In an interview last week after the Manning discussion, Mr. Coletto added that millennials tend to be more collaborative than previous generations, which indicates they could influence each other more on voting choices. Social media makes it easier to talk politics, but could also reinforce echo chambers, which could be difficult for Conservatives to break through. A leader's personal brand and how it relates to Canada's global position could also matter more, he said, as millennials are constantly comparing themselves to everything via social media.

Mr. Scheer might have an uphill battle with his brand, as he's seen to be more of an old-fashioned dad compared to selfie-friendly Mr. Trudeau or stylish NDP leader Jagmeet Singh. Tim Powers, vice-chairman of Summa Strategies and a former adviser to Conservative politicians, noted Mr. Scheer is probably not as dynamic or suave as the others, but he's more relatable to the average voter as the "suburban dad."

Overall, Mr. Powers said being genuine is most important, but that the Conservatives should use Liberal social media techniques to introduce Mr. Scheer to voters, or get him featured in magazines.

"Look to do the same things—imitation is the greatest form of flattery," he said. "Certainly, the Liberals love to do that in mimicking Conservative fundraising techniques." The Tories have continued to lead the pack of federal political parties in quarterly fundraising totals, even now that they've been in the opposition benches since 2015.

Bridging the rural-urban split

What's going to resonate with urban-dwellers might not be the same as with rural voters, said Jacqueline Dobson, a conference panellist on the topic and former Queen's Park staffer. Cities are generally younger, more progressive places, she said, and the best way to break that trend is for Conservatives to be ambassadors to heal the divide between the two groups, while also releasing policies that matter to each of them.

"Not saying that some issues matter more than others, just some issues resonate with rural than urban communities," she said, noting rent and housing supply as urban issues and hydro rate hikes as a rural concern.

A communications strategy should involve targeting specific demographics, she said, which is ever easier in the age of targeted social media ads. But it must come off as authentic, as "there's nothing worse than social media that you can just tell is contrived." But good social media doesn't have to come from young people, she said, citing Toronto city councillor Norm Kelly, who Toronto Life said "morphed into a street-savvy superstar who spouts rap lyrics on Twitter, pals around with Drake, and inspires worship from teens around the world," despite the fact he's in his mid-70s.

It's also important to participate in events the targeted group participates in, such as pride parades, said Ms. Dobson. Mr. Scheer has indicated he won't march in pride parades but "There are other ways that I've chosen to show support for the community." And just because he's not participating doesn't mean that other Conservatives can't, with Ms. Dobson saying "we have to show up, and we have to show up well."

LGBTory Canada hosted a conference pub night Feb. 8, and the group's vice-president of communications, Eric Lorenzen, said the party can resonate with LGBT Canadians through its emphasis on small government and individual freedoms. Conservatives need to show how their policies resonate with people who are not heterosexual and who are small-business owners and taxpayers, he said, but it needs to come from LGBT people in the party so it doesn't seem like pandering. He admitted that Mr. Scheer's record as a social conservative is challenging for outreach, but that his office has been willing to work with LGBTory.

"There are ways he can engage with the LGBT community outside of the [pride] parade," he said. "We're working with his office to try to arrange a venue."

Many people in the party are supportive of LGBT values and abortion rights, so the image of Conservatives as wholly unaccepting can be unfair, he said. Mr. Scheer has said the party would not focus on re-opening the gay marriage or abortion debates if Conservatives formed government.

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Conservative MP Rachael Harder, her party's status of women critic, told the Manning Networking Conference on Feb. 9 that feminism and conservatism go together because of their emphasis on equality. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

Liberal 2018 National Convention News

Ontario PC leadership candidates take centre stage at Manning conference

The Hill Times photographs by Andrew Meade





















Liberal VP and Trudeau insider Suzanne Cowan gunning for top party job

Suzanne Cowan, daughter of former Liberal Senator James Cowan, played key roles in Justin Trudeau's leadership campaign and in the party's 2015 general election win.

Continued from page 1

Ms. Cowan has spent time working both on Parliament Hill-in the offices of former Liberal Senator Bernie Boudreau, the late Liberal deputy prime minister Herb Gray, and Liberal MP Carolyn Bennett (Toronto-St. Paul's, Ont.) when she was minister of state for public health in the mid-2000s—and at Queen's Park for former premier Dalton McGuinty. Other Trudeau insiders who come out of the former Ontario premier's office include Mr. Trudeau's principal secretary Gerald Butts and chief of staff Katie Telford.

In 2012, Ms. Cowan was recruited to volunteer for Mr. Trudeau's (Papineau, Que.) Liberal leadership campaign. "I had met Justin when he was a Member of Parliament, and before that had friends who are friends with him," Ms. Cowan said. "I had worked with a number of people who were involved with launching his leadership campaign and they were looking for people to get involved."

It's a rare thing to be involved in a leadership campaign from its infancy, she said, and "once you help launch it, you're not going anywhere. You're going to see it through."

Ms. Cowan continued to see it through, and took on the role of senior adviser and director of advertising for the Liberals' 2015 campaign, where she said she learned the importance of making people feel as though they're being heard and "having what they said be reflected back in whether it's communications or outreach or advertising or [the] leader's messaging or anything like that."

After the election, Ms. Cowan said she "decided not to move to Ottawa," opting against uprooting her two young daughters, now aged six and 11, from Toronto. She took a job in March 2016 as vice-president of business development and corporate affairs with Park Lawn Corporation, the funeral, cremation, and cemetery provider. But she



Suzanne Cowan with Justin Trudeau, now prime minister, and his current principal secretary Gerald Butts, right, during the 2015 election campaign. *Photograph courtesy of Suzanne Cowan*

stayed involved with the party and, after being approached, ran to be a party vice-president in 2016, after which she helped overhaul the Liberal constitution and bylaws.

Despite her proximity to the prime minister and his inner circle, Ms. Cowan said her main contribution to the position of party president would be the relationships that she's forged in all pockets of the country.

"Over the course of working on the Hill and working at Queen's Park and in the private sector, I've managed to build a strong network across the country. I obviously know the leader, I know some of his people in the Prime Minister's Office and other places, but I think the important thing I bring to the table is that network across the country built over the last 25, 35 years of being involved in politics."

A major plank of Ms. Cowan's presidency platform revolves around building the team on the ground in advance of the next general election, ensuring they're properly trained and prepared. She's opted to not name campaign chairs, instead relying on "dozens" of people in every province—such as riding association heads and MPs—to help do the groundwork to get the word out and get people signed up and attending the convention.

She also acknowledges the need to strengthen the party's fundraising apparatus and wants to see an expansion of the Victory Fund, which allows donors to make an automatic monthly donation to both their riding and the national group, beginning at \$10 per month. The party has lagged behind the Conservatives in quarterly fundraising totals, despite having the advantage of being in government.

Candidates for positions on the Liberal national board have until March 14 to submit applications. The board oversees and guides the party in terms of organization, finances, and strategy.

Ms. Cowan said she hasn't yet heard any other names in the running to replace Ms. Gainey, who has served the allowed two consecutive two-year terms. But Ms. Cowan said she is "working like someone is going to get into the race."

Halifax to be convention central

When the three-day Liberal National Convention kicks off on April 19 in Ms. Cowan's hometown of Halifax, it will be the first under the party's new registration rules, which did away with a membership fee in

"As a result, over 90,000 Canadians have now registered as new Liberals since the summer of 2016," party spokesperson Braeden Caley said in an email. The same constitution overhaul also removed the previous delegate selection process for the convention, meaning registration for the event is now open to all registered Liberal members. The regular registration fee for the convention has also been reduced by 54 per cent from the 2016 event, he said.

"With more than two months of registration still to come, well over a thousand Canadians have already registered to attend,"Mr. Caley said.

It will be the first of two major political events held in Halifax's new convention centre. The Conservative Party will also hold its national convention at the venue in August.

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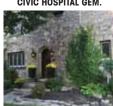
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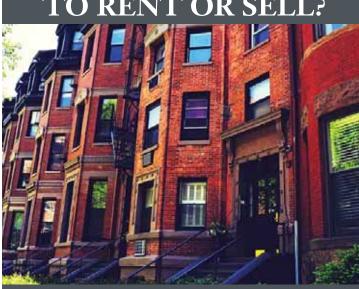
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HILL CLIMBERS

by Laura Ryckewaert

One in, one out for the PMO

Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's office said goodbye to special assistant Julie Savard-Shaw last week, and her replacement is already in place.

Until recently, Ms. Savard-Shaw had been a special assistant for policy in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) since September 2016, and before that was on the Hill as a policy adviser in Infrastructure and Communities Minister **Amarjeet Sohi's** office.

During the previous Parliament, when the Liberals were the third party, Ms. Savard-Shaw spent almost a year and a half as a special assistant for policy and research in Mr. Trudeau's leader's office. She's also previously worked as a campaigns officer with Results Canada, and is a former advocacy and policy assistant with the Nobel Women's Initiative in Ottawa.

She has an undergraduate degree in public affairs and policy management from Carleton University, along with a master's degree in development economics and international development from the university's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs.

A going-away party was held for Ms. Savard-Shaw on Feb. 6.

Kathleen Davis has already replaced Ms. Savard-Shaw in the PMO, and started

on the job on Feb. 7. She is focused on global affairs policy, specifically related to gender and development, according to her LinkedIn profile.

Up until this month, Ms. Davis had been busy working as a communications and parliamentary affairs adviser to Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould since May 2017



Kathleen Davis has joined the PMO. Photograph courtesy of LinkedIn

Before coming to work on the Hill, Ms. Davis worked as a freelance journalist, specializing in international law and human rights, including for CNN International in London, as described on her LinkedIn account. At the same time, she was assisting the director of the University of Toronto's International Human Rights Program as a lawyer, and is a former adjunct professor with York University's Osgoode Hall Law School.

Along with previously being an articling student at Torys LLP, she's also a former legal intern with the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, and spent about four months as a legal fellow with the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, also in The Hague, according to her online profile.

She holds a master of laws from New York University and a doctor of juridical science from the University of Toronto.

Now in the PMO policy unit, Ms. Davis is working under **Mike McNair**, executive director of cabinet and legislative affairs.

Also doing policy work in the office are: Sabina Saini, deputy director of policy; policy advisers Maxime Dea, Rachel Doran, Sarah Goodman, Tyler Meredith, Christina Rettig, and Patrick Travers; and special assistants Laurence Harvey, Sarah Hussaini, and Amitpal Singh Basati.

Katie Telford is the PMO's chief of staff, while Gerald Butts is principal secretary.

Over in Ms. Wilson-Raybould's office, run by chief of staff **Lea MacKenzie**, communications director **David Taylor** remains in place.

Senior staff gifted booze, jewelry, sweaters

Hill Climbers last took a look at the list of public declarations of gifts and "other advantages" reported to the federal conflict of interest and ethics commissioner in an Aug. 23 column, and since then another more than 20 declarations have been made.

As of Aug. 23, ministerial staffers had made 16 public declarations of gifts, with another six declarations made in 2016.

Through the course of their work, political staff are sometimes, like their bosses, offered gifts, from tickets to trinkets, and, as with their bosses, ministerial staff are required by law to publicly declare any such benefits valued at \$200 or more to the federal commissioner. Anything over \$1,000, they must forfeit to the Crown.

In a declaration dated Aug. 31, **Elliott Lockington**, special adviser to Canadian Heritage Minister **Mélanie Joly**, reported

that he had received two tickets to attend Cirque du Soleil's show Volta from **Agathe Alie**, senior director of community relations for Cirque du Soleil on Aug. 3.

On Sept. 16, Maryse Harvey, then deputy chief of staff to Finance Minister Bill Morneau, and Sharan Kaur, senior manager of operations and executive assistant to Mr. Morneau, were provided accommodation at the Mexican government's official residence in San Miguel, Mexico for the night during a trip abroad with the minister, as reported in an October declaration.

Staci Ahonen, a policy adviser to Ms. Joly, reported receiving tickets to attend the policy conference portion of the Canada China Business Council's annual general meeting, held in Toronto last year on Sept. 21, from the business council's executive director Sarah Kutulakos.

Geoff Hall, scheduler to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, received an airline ticket and hotel stay to attend the 2017 One Young World summit in Bogota, Colombia, which took place Oct. 4 to 7, after having been an advisory board member for One Young World's 2016 Ottawa summit.

Gerald Butts, principal secretary to Mr. Trudeau, reported having received a bottle of Tequila Casa Dragones Joven—a small-batch, 100 per cent Blue Agave Joven Tequila—from the Mexican president's wife, Angélica Rivera de Peña, on Oct. 12 during the Mr. Trudeau's first official visit to the country.

Kate Purchase, executive director of communications and planning, and Katie Telford, chief of staff to Mr. Trudeau, both similarly reported having received a bottle of the Casa Dragones Tequila from Ms. Rivera de Peña on Oct. 12. It was one of six declarations Ms. Telford made last fall.

Ms. Telford was invited by Bill and Melinda Gates to attend the Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards Dinner held on Sept. 19 at Gotham Hall in New York City during a visit to the city to attend the United Nations General Assembly. She reported having received a Lingua Franca cashmere sweater from WomenOne through her capacity as a participant in the organization's Oct. 11 roundtable in Washington, D.C.

In November, Ms. Telford had flight and hotel costs covered by Canada's Top 40 Under 40 program founder, Caldwell Partners, for her to attend its honours awards networking forum and dinner in Toronto.

She reported having had costs covered to attend the Catalyst Canada Honours Dinner in Toronto on Nov. 6, in light of her having given a keynote address at the Catalyst Canada Honours Conference.

Ms. Telford also reported having received a bracelet and pair of earrings from Hillberg & Berk founder and chief executive officer **Rachel Mielke** on Dec. 7 as part of an invitation to attend its "inaugural event SPARKLE 2018," as described in the declaration. Hillberg & Berk is a Canadian jewelry company based in Regina, Sask.

Susan Menchini, now deputy director of tour in the PMO, and Julie Savard-Shaw, then a special assistant for policy in the PMO, both also reported having received a cashmere sweater from WomenOne during the Oct. 11 roundtable in Washington.

Justine Villeneuve, a former policy adviser to Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale who recently became communications director to the status of women minister, received two tickets to attend the 2017 National Arts Centre Gala on Sept. 16 from J. Serge Sasseville, senior vice president of corporate and institutional affairs of Quebecor.

In November, Caroline Séguin, director of policy to Ms. Joly, reported having won two airline tickets to any WestJet destination through a prize draw at the "Newfoundland [and] Labrador Shed Party" on the Hill organized by MPs and Senators from the province.

Alex Steinhouse, a policy and parliamentary affairs adviser to Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould, received a ticket to attend the Dec. 14 gala held to mark former Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin's retirement from a former colleague now working for Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP.

Bahadur Vinning, who serves as regional affairs manager for the Pacific in the regional ministerial office in Vancouver, reported having received a ticket to attend an unspecified Mayor's Charity Ball in October 2017 from Kiersten Enemark from Shaw Communications.

Finally, the only declarations made so far in 2018, dated Jan. 5, are actually for an event ticket reportedly received by **John Burnett**, director of policy to Science Minister **Kirsty Duncan**, and Ms. Duncan's chief of staff **Anne Dawson** in October 2016 from the Gairdner Foundation to attend the Canada Gairdner Research Awards.

lryckewaert@hilltimes.com The Hill Times

Cabinet Communications and Chiefs of Staff List 2018

Minister	Portfolio	Chief of Staff	D. Comms	Press Secretary	Main Office #
Trudeau, Justin	Prime Minister, Intergovernmental Affairs, Youth	Katie Telford	Kate Purchase	Eleanore Catenaro, Chantal Gagnon	613-957-5555
	, 3			Amreet Kaur, Vanessa Hage-Moussa	
Bains, Navdeep	Innovation, Science, and Economic Development	Gianluca Cairo	Mallory Clyne	Karl W. Sasseville	343-291-2500
Bennett, Carolyn	Crown-Indigenous Relations	Rick Theis	James Fitz-Morris	Sabrina Williams	819-997-0002
Bibeau, Marie-Claude	International Development and La Francophonie	Geoffroi Montpetit	Louis Bélanger	Marie-Emmanuelle Cadieux	343-203-6238
Brison, Scott	Treasury Board	Adam Carroll	Bruce Cheadle	Jean-Luc Ferland	613-369-3170
Carr, Jim	Natural Resources	Zoë Caron	Laurel Munroe	Alexandre Deslongchamps	343-292-6837
Champagne, François-Philippe	International Trade	Julian Ovens	Joe Pickerill	Pierre-Olivier Herbert	343-203-7332
Chagger, Bardish	Small Business and Tourism	Caitlin Workman	Jonathan Dignan	-	343-291-2700
	House Leader	Rheal Lewis	Mark Kennedy	Sabrina Atwal	613-995-2727
Duclos, Jean-Yves	Families, Children, and Social Development	Olivier Duchesneau	Mathieu Filion	Émilie Gauduchon	819-654-5546
Duncan, Kirsty	Science	Anne Dawson	Michael Bhardwaj	Ann Marie Paquet	343-291-2600
	Sports and Persons with Disabilities	Jude Welch	Jane Almeida	Annabelle St-Pierre Archambault	819-934-1122
Freeland, Chrystia	Foreign Affairs	Jeremy Broadhurst	Alexander Lawrence	Adam Austen	343-203-1851
Garneau, Marc	Transport	Jean-Philippe Arseneau	Marc Roy	Delphine Denis	613-991-0700
Goodale, Ralph	Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness	Marci Surkes	Dan Brien	Scott Bardsley	613-991-2924
Gould, Karina	Democratic Institutions	Rob Jamieson	Jordan Owens	Nicky Cayer	613-943-1838
Hajdu, Patty	Employment, Workforce Development, and Labour	Matthew Mitschke	Carlene Variyan	Matt Pascuzzo	819-654-5611
Hussen, Ahmed	Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship	Ali Salam	Hursh Jaswal*	_	613-954-1064
Joly, Mélanie	Canadian Heritage	Leslie Church	Emilie Simard	Simon Ross	819-997-7788
LeBlanc, Dominic	Fisheries, Oceans & Coast Guard	Vince MacNeil	Kevin Lavigne	Laura Gareau	613-992-3474
Lebouthillier, Diane	National Revenue	Josée Guilmette	Bernard Boutin	John Power	613-995-2960
MacAulay, Lawrence	Agriculture and Agri-Food	Mary Jean McFall	Guy Gallant	Oliver Anderson**	613-773-1059
McKenna, Catherine	Environment and Climate Change	Marlo Raynolds	Julia Kilpatrick	Marie-Pascale Des Rosiers	819-938-3813
Monsef, Maryam	Status of Women	Dara Lithwick	Justine Villeneuve	Célia Canon	819-997-2494
Morneau, Bill	Finance	Richard Maksymetz	Daniel Lauzon	Chloe Luciani-Girouard	613-369-5696
O'Regan, Seamus	Veterans Affairs, Associate Defence	Cyndi Jenkins	John Embury	Alex Wellstead	613-996-4649
Petitpas Taylor, Ginette	Health	Geneviève Hinse	Yves Comeau	Thierry Bélair	613-957-0200
Philpott, Jane	Indigenous Services	John Brodhead	Micol Zarb	Andrew MacKendrick	613-957-0200
Qualtrough, Carla	Public Services and Procurement	Matt Stickney	Christine Michaud	Ashley Michnowski	819-997-5421
Sajjan, Harjit	National Defence	Zita Astravas	Renée Filiatrault	Byrne Furlong	613-996-3100
Sohi, Amarjeet	Infrastructure and Communities	Leslie O'Leary	Kate Monfette	Brook Simpson	613-949-1759
Wilson-Raybould, Jody	Justice	Lea MacKenzie	David Taylor	-	613-992-4621

* Communications manager ** Communications adviser

PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS OFFICE:

613-957-5555

Kate Purchase, executive director of communications and planning Cameron Ahmad, deputy director of communications

—Last updated on Feb. 6, 2018

DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES

by Shruti Shekar

Burkina Faso is more than just gold mines, says new political envoy

Athanase Boudo, the new ambassador of Burkina Faso, says Canada can invest in so many more commodities from the West African nation and hopes to shed light on some of these products by connecting with more provinces.

The new ambassador of Burkina Faso wants to make Canada aware that it can invest in more than just gold in the landlocked country and hopes to shed light on the different trade opportunities it can offer

Athanase Boudo arrived on Nov. 7, replacing his predecessor Amadou Adrien Koné who served in the role for five years. Mr. Boudo presented his credentials to the Governor General on Nov. 20.

Sitting in his office last week at the embassy on Range Road, which is located in the Sandy Hill neighbourhood in Ottawa, Mr. Boudo said in French that he was grateful for Canada being the largest foreign investor in gold mines.

Currently, there are 11 gold mines in the West African country, of which Canada is a majority shareholder in three, and according to Global Affairs Canada, Canadian mining assets totalled almost \$2-billion in 2014.

Mr. Boudo said there are other commodities like shea butter, cotton, and sesame, and one of his priorities is to diversify the products coming from Burkina Faso into Canada by getting involved with more provinces.

"There are three main provinces that are concerned with Burkina Faso: Quebec, Ontario, and New Brunswick. I think that Canada is not limited to only these three provinces," he said. "My goal is to expand to all 10 provinces and three territories. We need to go into all provinces and regions for bigger opportunities and relations between Burkina Faso and Canada."

Canada and Burkina Faso also signed the Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement in 2014, to allow the two countries to co-operate on foreign investments and trade.

Burkina Faso's president Roch Marc Christian Kaboré appointed Mr. Boudo, who was formerly a member of the country's legislature, the National Assembly of Burkina Faso, from 2007 to 2012.

He was a founding member and the second vice-president of the Union for the Renaissance/Sankarist Party. According to Agence d'information du Burkina, a news website based in Burkina Faso, during the 2015 election, Mr. Boudo's party, in a surprising move, showed support for Mr. Kaboré's People's Movement for Progress Party, which won that election with 53.49 per cent of the vote.

He was most recently the director general of studies and sector statistics at



Athanase Boudo, the new politically appointed ambassador of Burkina Faso, arrived in Canada on Nov. 7 and presented his credentials on Nov. 20. *The Hill Times photograph by Shruti Shekar*

the Ministry of National Education and Literacy.

Before that, he was the co-ordinator of the population and development program at the National Population Council Secretariat in the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

As part of his tour of duty, he said he also hoped to connect with the more than 5,000 Burkinabé in Canada, especially with the goal of getting them to vote in Burkina Faso's next election that is going to take place in 2020.

"It's not easy because all the Burkinabé are not connected with the embassy, so another challenge is to get them connected so they will be able to vote," he said, noting that staff at the embassy has reduced over the past few years due to financial restrictions.

He said the embassy was also in the process of revamping its website to make it a focal point for Burkinabé in Canada.

"It will be the base of information from security, to investment, and trade," he said.

Along with these priorities, he said he hoped to try and increase humanitarian aid that Canada invests in his country.

According to GAC, in 2014-2015, Canada provided \$45-million in development assistance to Burkina Faso.

Accompanying Mr. Boudo in Ottawa is his wife, **Koumbou Boudo Simpore**, and three young children, who all are going to school in Ottawa.

Aubin leaves U.S. Embassy

Elizabeth Aubin, the U.S. Embassy's chargé d'affaires, has left her post to return to Washington.

Roy Norton, chief of protocol at Global Affairs Canada, tweeted on Dec. 14 about Ms. Aubin's January departure.

"She has been an outstanding representative of the USA – a firm but fair advocate for US interests, especially as acting ambassador for most of 2017 @usembassyottawa," Mr. Norton's tweet said.

Ms. Aubin was in her role from 2016 to 2017 and first joined the foreign service in

A spokesperson from the U.S. Embassy said in an email that U.S. diplomats periodically rotate to new assignments and that a new deputy chief of mission would be named soon.

sshekar@hilltimes.com

First ambassador-of-the-year, public diplomacy awards hosted by UOttawa

The Hill Times photographs by Sam Garcia



The University of Ottawa's Law Faculty and the International **Public Diplomacy Council** launched the first Canadian Public Diplomacy Awards and Ambassador of the Year Awards at a Jan. 24 ceremony at the university. Nine regional deans received certificates of merit: José Moreira da Cunha (Portugal), Naif Bin Bandir AlSudairy (Saudi Arabia), Florence Zano Chideya (Zimbabwe), Constant Horace (Madagascar), Sofía Cerrato (Honduras), Frantz Liautaud (Haiti), Petronila Garcia (Philippines), and Solomon Azoh-Mbi (Cameroon).

Award winners
Sibongiseni
Dlamini-Mntambo
(South Africa),
Hocine Meghar
(Algeria), Kimihiro
Ishikane (Japan),
Mr. AlSudairy,
Enrique Ruiz
Molero (Spain),
Ms. Chideya,
Ms. Garcia, and
minister-counsellor
Kay Mayfield
(United States)



Australia celebrates national day, high commissioner bids farewell



at a Jan. 25 party at the Museum

of History to mark Australia Day.









Athletes, environment minister unveil EU Winterlude sculpture







Events Feature

Senate creates cannabis guide

Continued from page 2

C-45, the Cannabis Act, in the Red Chamber.
The bill, which would legalize the sale of the drug for recreational use in Canada, as well as the government's control and regulation of how it's grown, distributed, and sold, was passed in the House on Nov. 27. It is currently in the Senate at second reading.

The website (https://sencanada.ca/en/sencaplus/news/cannabis-act/) lists the status of the bill in the Senate, links to all related Senate debates by day, a weekly tweet that summarizes the Senate's business related to the legislation, the latest provincial and territorial regulations, and other general information that relates to how a bill becomes a law.

Creators of Justin Trudeau calendar strike again



Need a belated Valentine's gift for that hard-to-buyfor politico? There's a new book to be released on Feb. 20 titled My Canadian Boyfriend, Justin Trudeau, and it's absolutely cringeworthy.

According to the back of the book, the author **Carrie Parker**, is "not real, but

her *Trudeauly*, madly, deeply love for Justin Trudeau is."

The U.S.-based company Universe published the book; it also published *Justin Trudeau*, *My Boyfriend 2018 Wall Calendar* that was released on Sept. 26.

The 128-page coffee-table book has a similar concept to the calendar. It is filled with photos of Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** and is accompanied with "the author's sweetly off-kilter thoughts about Trudeau's many remarkable physical and intellectual assets, philosophies, and actions."

One page has a close-up shot of Mr. Trudeau and the text reads: "My boyfriend sometimes gazes northward, far passed the snowy plains of Nunavut, and smiles, knowing that the future he sees is indeed female."

A Feb. 9 *Chatelaine* article said: "this book is pretty terrible. But it's the best kind of terrible: charming, typo-filled, and laugh-out-loud funny."

Edelman's 2018 Trust Barometer to be revealed

Public affairs firm Edelman will be hosting its Trust Barometer release event on Feb. 23, which will reveal this year's statistics on how much trust Canadians hold in public institutions.

The barometer surveys people's trust in business, government, non-governmental organizations, and the media. It's done globally, but the Canadian event will focus on this country's slice of the results.

The event will be hosted at the Sir John A. Macdonald Building starting with a breakfast, a panel discussion, and then the presentation of findings.

Speakers will include **Richard Edelman**, president and CEO of Edelman, **Michael Tremblay**, president and CEO of Invest Ottawa, and soon-to-retire Treasury Board Secretary **Yaprak Baltacioglu**.

Ms. Baltacioglu announced her retirement in January. After 29 years in the public service, she will be leaving the office on April 3.

Parliamentary Calendar



NDP convention takes over Ottawa's Shaw Centre this weekend

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14

The House Is Sitting—The House is sitting today and tomorrow. It will then take a break, returning on Feb. 26. The House will break again on March 2, and take a two-week break from March 5-16. After returning March 19 and sitting every weekday for the next nearly two weeks, the House will again break from March 30 to April 13. It will resume sitting April 16 and sit every weekday until leaving for a one-week break from May 14-21. After returning on May 22, the House is scheduled to sit every weekday until adjourning for the summer break in late June. The Senate will largely follow the same schedule, though the Senate traditionally only sits Tuesday to Thursday, and is scheduled to break a week later in the spring, on June 29.

Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada 2018 Reception—Canada's mineral exploration and development industry is holding a reception in advance of the PDAC International Convention, Trade Show, and Investors Exchange. 5-7:30 p.m. Commonwealth Room, Centre Block. RSVP to rsvp@pdac.ca Please bring government-issued photo ID.

Ottawa Launch of Report on Women Entrepreneurs & Innovation—The launch of a new report from BMO Financial Group, Carleton University, the Canadian government, and the Beacon Agency exploring the implications for business and the Canadian economy resulting from gender differences in approaches to innovation will take place at a breakfast reception at the National Arts Centre (Lantern Room) in Ottawa (1 Elgin St.). Government House Leader and Small Business and Tourism Minister Bardish Chagger and the report's authors, Clare Beckton and Janice McDonald, will be in attendance. The event will be hosted by BMO's senior vice-president for Alberta and the Northwest Territories, Susan Brown. 7:30-8:30 a.m. Registration is required by noon Feb. 13.

THURSDAY, FEB. 15

Courage to Leap: How the Left Can Win with Transformative Demands and Revolutionary Organizing—The Leap and Courage are partnering to bring key architects of the Bernie Sanders and Jeremy Corbyn campaigns to Ottawa. Speakers include: Becky Bond, senior adviser to the Sanders campaign, and Emma Rees and Adam Klug, co-founders of Momentum U.K., as well as Marsha de Cordova, U.K. Labour MP for Battersea, and shadow minister for disabled people. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Museum of Nature, 240 McLeod St. 3rd floor. Tickets: \$0-\$10 available via Eventbrite.

The Gift of Jazz: From Africa to New Orleans to The True North Strong and Free—Deborah Davis and Segue to Jazz will be joined by Stefan Keyes, weekend Ottawa anchor of CTV News; jazz great Michael C. Hanna; Jamaal Jackson Rogers, Ottawa English poet laureate; and former world tap-dancing champion Darin Kyle, for their annual tribute to Black History Month. General audience tickets are \$40; \$25 for seniors and students. 6 p.m. National Gallery of Canada Theatre, 380 Sussex Dr., Ottawa. For more, visit odysseyshowcase. org. This event is presented by Odyssey Showcase in partnership with the National Gallery of Canada and sponsored by TD Bank.

Bacon & Eggheads Breakfast—The Partnership Group for Science and Engineering (PAGSE) presents a talk 'Canada Takes a Big Stake in the Driverless Future' with Steven Waslander, University of Waterloo. 7:30 a.m. Parliamentary Dining Room, Centre Block. No charge to MPs, Senators, and media. All others, \$25. Pre-registration required by Feb. 12 by contacting Donna Boag at pagse@rsc-src.ca or 613-991-6369.

FRIDAY, FEB. 16

NDP Federal Convention—The party is set to hold this policy convention Feb. 16-18, at the Shaw Centre, 55 Colonel By Dr., in Ottawa. To become a delegate or for more information, visit ottawa2018.ndp.ca.

SATURDAY, FEB. 17

Prime Minister Trudeau Makes Official Visit to India— Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, at the invitation of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is visiting India for an official visit from Feb. 17 to 23. The visit will includes stops in Agra, Amritsar, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, and New Delhi.

THURSDAY, FEB. 22

Conference on Security and Defence—The Conference of Defence Associations Institute presents this annual conference Feb. 22-23. Fairmont Chateau Laurier, Ottawa. cdainstitute.ca/events/2017-annual-ottawa-conference.

Community Llaison Officers' Group Ottawa—The CLO Group is hosting a 2017/2018 series of information sessions for foreign diplomatic missions' personnel responsible for welcoming new embassy staff members and their families. The group involves networking and sharing information essential for a smooth transition and settlement of new families to Ottawa/the National Capital Region. Monthly meetings feature guest speakers. February's topic is housing. 2:30 p.m. To join the group or participate in the meeting, please contact andjelka.vidovic@embassyservices.org.

Embassies and Ontario Employment Law—Join labour and employment lawyers Stephen Bird and Russell MacCrimmon of Bird Richard for a presentation on the law governing embassies' relationships with their locally engaged staff. As many embassies in Canada strive to mirror regional employment standards for their locally engaged staff, this seminar will focus on how to provide comparable benefits while protecting yourself from costly litigation brought by Canadian staff, as well as a discussion on state immunity under Canadian law, minimum standards under Ontario law, and drafting employment contracts for locally engaged staff. Shaw Centre, Ottawa. 8:30-10 a.m. Presentation with Q&A to follow. To register, visit www.lawyersforemployers.ca.

FRIDAY, FEB. 23

Canadian Parliamentary Press Gallery Annual General Meeting—The press gallery is set to hold its AGM in the National Press Theatre, 150 Wellington St., Ottawa. 12:30 p.m. Members will vote on a new board of directors and discuss changes to the the gallery's constitution.

MONDAY, FEB, 26

NAFTA Round 7—The next round of NAFTA talks is set to start today in Mexico City and run until March 6.

TUESDAY, FEB. 27

Engineers Canada Parliamentary Reception—Engineers Canada cordially invites Members of Parliament, Senators, and their staff to join them for breakfast on Parliament Hill, featuring a discussion of the public policy issues currently facing the engineering profession in Canada. Parliamentary Dining Room, Centre Block. 7:30-9:30 a.m.

Luncheon: Syrian Refugees: No Relief in Sight—The Group of 78 presents this luncheon featuring Fatos Baudoin, a WHO consultant in Turkey in the city of Gaziantep where two large refugee camps are located and the refugee population comprises 22 per cent of the city population. Noon. Palais Imperial Restaurant, 311-313 Dalhousie St., Ottawa. \$30 for lunch and presentation, \$5 for presentation only. For presentation only, please plan to arrive by 12:45 p.m. Reservations can be made online through Eventbrite, or by email: group78@group78.org, or by phone: 613-565-9449 ext. 22 by Friday Feb. 22, by noon. For more information, email group78@group78.org, or call 613-585-9449

Carleton University 2018 Bell Lecture with Jean Charest—The 2018 Bell Lecture will be delivered by Jean Charest, former Quebec premier, deputy prime minister of Canada, federal Progressive Conservative Party leader, and Quebec Liberal Party leader. He'll speak on "Change, Trends, and Canada," including the topic of NAFTA. 7-9 p.m. Richcraft Hall, Carleton University campus, 9376 University Dr., Ottawa. Register via: https://carleton.ca/fpa/events/the-bell-lecture/.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28

Canadian Federation of Agriculture Annual General
Meeting—This conference will take Feb. 28 to March 1.
Speakers include Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay,
Conservative agriculture critics Luc Berthold and John Barlow, and Canada's chief NAFTA negotiator Steve Verheul.
Ottawa Marriott Hotel, 100 Kent St., Ottawa. cfa-fca.ca.

Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries Reception—CADSI invites all Members of Parliament and Senators to join them for a reception in celebration of the important partnership between government and Canada's innovative defence and security industries. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Commonwealth Room, Centre Block.

Associated Equipment Distributors Parliamentary Reception —All MPs and Senators are invited to meet associated equipment distributors from across Canada during their annual Ottawa briefing. AED is an international trade association representing companies involved in the distribution, rental, and support of equipment used in construction, mining, forestry, power generation, agriculture, and industrial applications. 5-7:30 p.m. (or after votes. Parliamentary Dining Room, Centre Block. RSVP to rsvp@blueskystrategy-group.com or 613-241-3512.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

Perspectives on Tax Reform and Innovation—Join the Canadian Club of Ottawa and in panellists from industries driven by innovation for lunch and a discussion on the impact that tax reform is having. Panellists: Dr. Gigi Osler, president-elect of the Canadian Medical Association, and Russ Roberts, senior vice president at the Canadian Advanced Technology Alliance. Moderator: Bryan Haralovich, partner, Welch LLP. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Chateau Laurier, 1 Rideau St.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

NPSIA Soirée 2018—The Norman Paterson graduate School of International Affairs (NPSIA) at Carleton University is hosting a black-tie charity dinner gala at the Fairmont Chateau Laurier featuring former CBC broadcaster Peter Mansbridge, with funds raised going to the Ottawa Food Bank. The evening's theme is "Sound Reporting in a Disquieted World." 6:15-10:30 p.m. \$100-\$250 per ticket. For more information, visit ppsiasoiree.com.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4

PDAC 2018—The Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada hosts its annual International Convention, Trade Show & Investors Exchange, March 4-7. Metro Toronto Convention Centre. This industry event attracts cabinet ministers from many of the world's top mining countries.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6

CARE Canada's Walk In Her Shoes—Ahead of International Women's Day, CARE Canada will be leading its second annual Walk In Her Shoes event in support of women and girls worldwide. Parliamentarians, diplomats, public servants, students, women, and men are invited to join this lunchtime walk, which will kickoff at Parliament Hill. 11:30 a.m. To learn more or register: walkinhershoes.ca.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

Bank of Canada Overnight Rate Release—The Bank of Canada will announce its overnight rate target today at 10 a.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8

OEA/CABE Spring Policy Conference—The Ottawa Economics Association and Canadian Association of Business Economics are hosting a conference discussing various aspects of inclusive growth in Canada. Sessions cover issues such as the gender wage gap; labour market integration of Indigenous people, women, older workers, and migrants; financial inclusion; inclusive tax policy; and the progressive trade agenda. The keynote speakers are Annette Verschuren, chair and CEO, NRStor Inc., and Douglas J. Porter, chief economist and managing director of BMO. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Chateau Laurier Hotel, Ottawa. Conference fees apply. For more details on speakers, rates and registration, please visit sepace.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

2018 Ontario PC Leadership Race—Ontario PC members will select a new leader to replace Patrick Brown today. Online voting will run Friday, March 2 to Thursday, March 8.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

Seminar: Members and their Constituency—The Canadian Study of Parliament offers this seminar. It will bring together Parliamentarians, academics, parliamentary staff, and journalists who will look into the nature of constituency representation and engagement, while also exploring competing ideas about what the "constituency" is and how it may differ for some Members. Includes breakfast and buffet lunch. \$150 members; \$200 non-members; \$25 students/retirees. For more information, visit cspg-gcep.ca, or contact the CSPG Secretariat at 613-995-2937 or info@cspg-gcep.ca.

The Parliamentary Calendar is a free events listing. Send in your political, cultural, diplomatic, or governmental event in a paragraph with all the relevant details under the subject line 'Parliamentary Calendar' to news@hilltimes.com by Wednesday at noon before the Monday paper or by Friday at noon for the Wednesday paper. We can't guarantee inclusion of every event, but we will definitely do our best. Events can be updated daily online too.





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